STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

REPORT ON THE JUDICIARY

1989

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

In accordance with § 8-15-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws, it is my pleasure to transmit the 1989 Annual Report on the Judiciary.

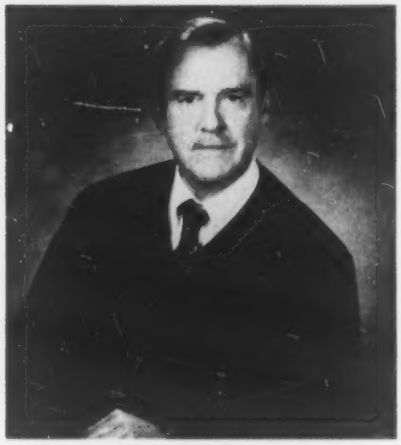
This report clearly depicts the efforts of the court to deliver quality and timely justice while combatting increasing caseloads. Some of the highlights of 1989 were projects to computerize court-related functions, efforts to improve and speed case travel, and initiatives to replace or renovate the state's courthouses. The General Assembly can be guaranteed that the Rhode Island court system will continue to strive to provide the best possible service to the people of the state.

Appreciation is expressed to the many persons who participated in the data reporting, compilation, and writing required to produce this report.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Smith
State Court Administrator

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



I am pleased to present you with the 1989 Report on the Judiciary. I believe that this report clearly shows the results of the dedication and commitment of the judges and court staff to the people of the State of Rhode Island.

I want to use this opportunity to speak to the dilemma confronting justice systems in local, state, and federal jurisdictions across the nation – the increasing number of criminal and civil case filings. The tremendous increase in filings is straining the resources of the courts to a point that, unless we take aggressive and innovative action, there is a real danger that the system will become ineffective.

Faced with these circumstances, I feel the time is appropriate to address the need for the fiscal independence of the judicial branch of government. Without the financial flexibility to adjust to the ever-increasing and fluctuating criminal and civil caseload demands, Rhode Island's justice system will face catastrophic gridlock.

Your concern this past year has been focused almost singularly on a severe budget crisis, one which Rhode Island shares with other states in New England. While I appreciate that the legislative branch always struggles with the conflict of providing a wide range of necessary services while maintaining the fairest burden on the taxpayers, the judicial budget cannot continue to be held hostage by the understandable pressures being exerted on the legislative body.

The current budgetary system restricts the court's ability to respond to the present needs and prepare for future caseload growth. If we are to ensure that justice is served, the judiciary must be recognized as an equal to the legislative and executive branches of government; fiscal independence for the judiciary is an important and necessary step.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Fay

Thomas F. Fay
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

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This report covers calendar year 1989

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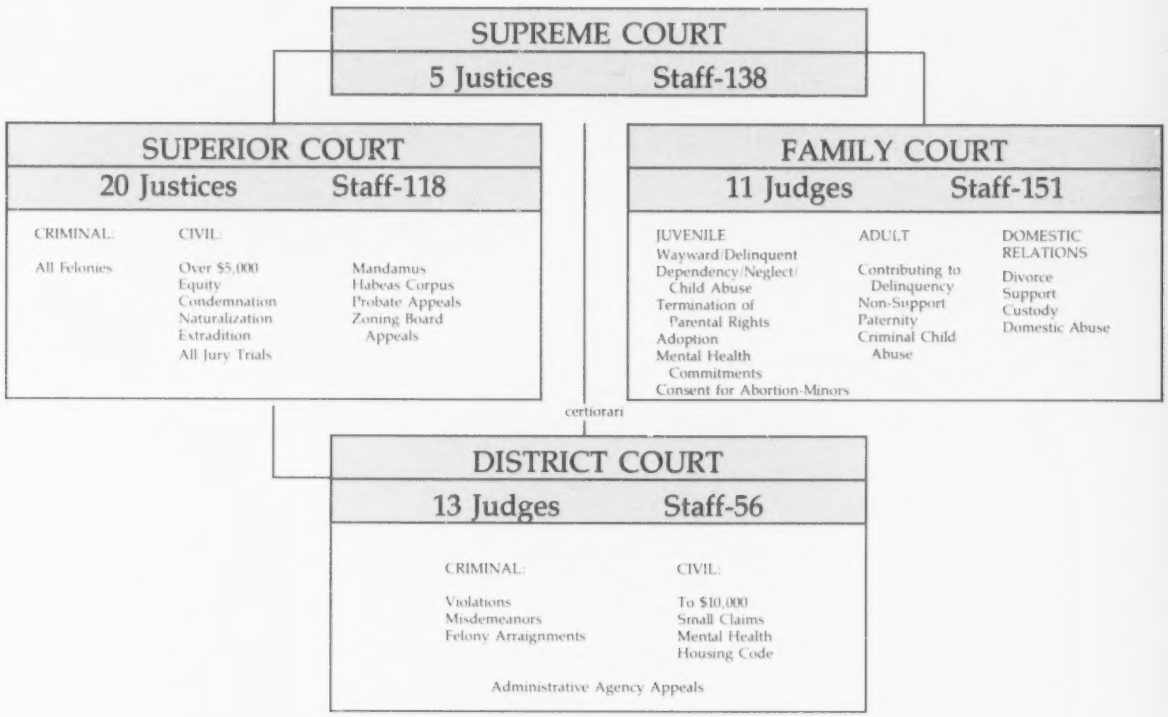
RHODE ISLAND
COURT STRUCTURE

Rhode Island has a unified court system composed of four statewide courts: the District and Family Courts are trial courts of special jurisdiction, the Superior Court is the general trial court, and the Supreme Court is the court of review.

The entire system in Rhode Island is state-funded with the exception of probate courts, which are the responsibility of cities and towns, and the municipal courts, which are local courts of limited jurisdiction. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the executive head of the state court system and has authority over the judicial budget. The Chief Justice appoints a state court administrator and an administrative staff to handle budgetary and general administrative functions. Each court has responsibility over its own operations and has a chief judge who appoints an administrator to handle internal court management.



Staffing and jurisdictional organization of the Rhode Island Courts.

SUPREME COURT

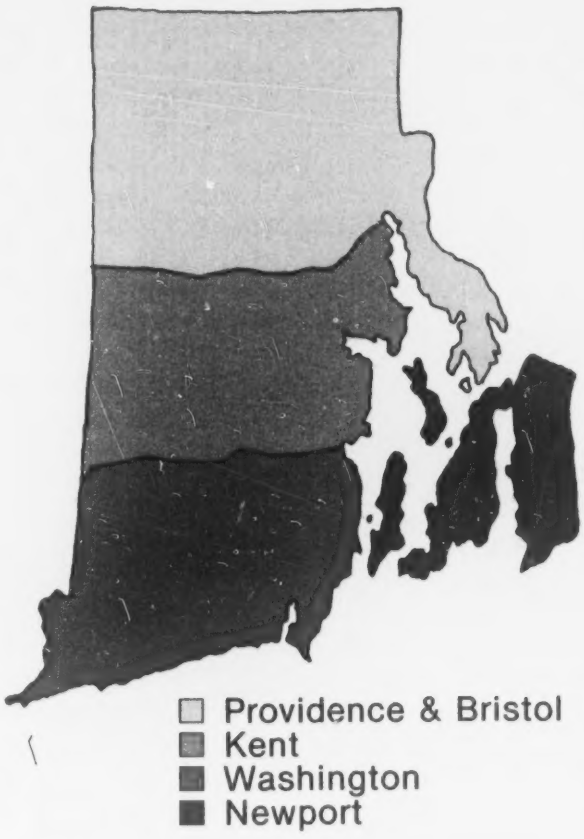
The Supreme Court has final advisory and appellate jurisdiction on questions of law and equity, and it also has supervisory powers over the other state courts. In addition, the Supreme Court has general advisory responsibility to both the Legislative and Executive branches of the state government concerning the constitutionality of legislation. Another responsibility of the Supreme Court is the regulation of admission to the Bar and the discipline of its members.

The State Court Administrative Office performs personnel, fiscal, and purchasing functions for the state court system. In addition, the Administrative Office serves a wide range of management functions, including the development and operation of automated information systems for all courts; long-range planning; the collection, analysis, and reporting of information on court caseloads and operations; the development and implementation of management improvement projects in specified areas; and the supervision of facilities.

The State Law Library is also under the direction of the Supreme Court. The library's primary function is to provide reference materials and research services for the judges and staff of the courts. However, it also serves the general community as the only comprehensive law library in the state.

SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. Civil matters concerning claims in excess of $5,000 and all equity proceedings are heard in this court. The Superior Court also has original jurisdiction over all crimes and offenses except as otherwise provided by law, and thus all indictments by grand juries and information charged by the Department of Attorney General are returned there. The Superior Court has appellate jurisdiction from decisions of local probate and municipal courts. Also, except as specifically provided by statute, criminal and civil cases tried in the District Court are brought to the Superior Court on appeal for a trial de novo. In addition, there are numerous appeals and statutory proceedings, such as redevelopment, land condemnation cases, zoning appeals, and enforcement of arbitrators' awards, which are under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court. The Superior Court also has concurrent jurisdiction with the Supreme Court over writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, and certain other prerogative writs. Appeals from the Superior Court are heard by the Supreme Court.



Map of the State of Rhode Island showing the Superior and Family Courts

FAMILY COURT

The Family Court was created to focus special attention on individual and social problems concerning families and children. Consequently, its goals are to assist, protect, and if possible, restore families whose unity or well-being is being threatened. This court is also charged with assuring that children within its jurisdiction receive the care, guidance, and control conducive to their welfare and the best interests of the state. Additionally, if children are removed from the control of their parents, the court seeks to secure for them care equivalent to that which their parents should have given them.

Reflecting these specific goals, the Family Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine all petitions for divorce and any motions in conjunction with divorce proceedings, such as motions relating to the distribution of

property, alimony, support, and the custody of children. It also hears petitions for separate maintenance, and complaints regarding support for parents and children. The Family Court also has jurisdiction over those matters relating to delinquent, wayward, dependent, neglected, abused or mentally defective or mentally disordered children. It also has jurisdiction over adoptions, child marriages, paternity proceedings, and a number of other matters involving domestic relations and juveniles.

Appeals from decisions of the Family Court are taken directly to the state Supreme Court.

DISTRICT COURT

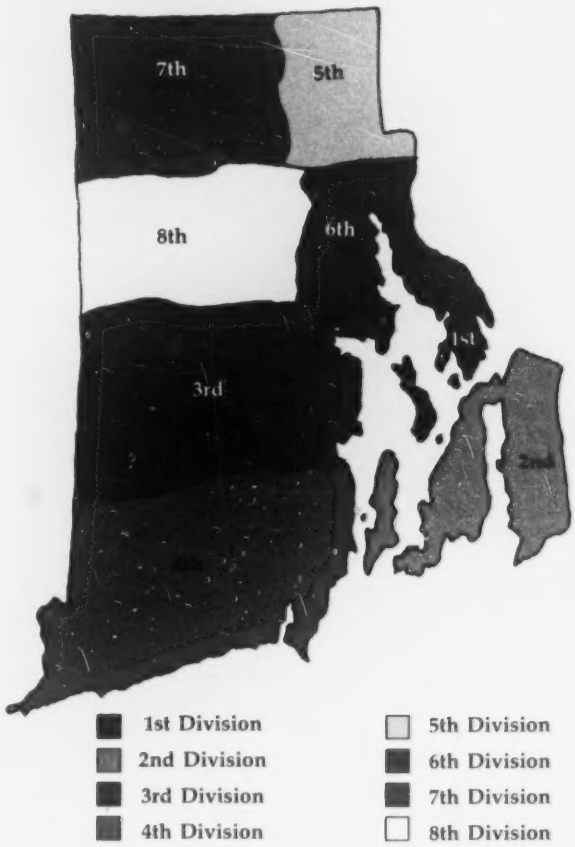
Most people who come before courts in this state have contact initially with the District Court. Thus, the District Court has been divided into eight divisions to give the people of the state easy, geographic access to the court system.

The jurisdiction of the District Court includes small claims that can be brought without a lawyer for amounts under $1,500 and actions at law concerning between $5,000 and $10,000 with transfer to the Superior Court available upon demand of either party. This court also has jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances or regulations.

The District Court also has original jurisdiction over all misdemeanors where the right to a jury trial in the first instance has been waived. If a defendant invokes the right to a jury trial, the case is transferred to the Superior Court.

Unlike many limited jurisdiction courts, the Rhode Island District Court does not handle traffic violations, except for a very few of the most serious offenses.

Appeals from District Court decisions in both civil and criminal cases go to the Superior Court for trial de novo. In actual practice, this right to a new trial is seldom used, and District Court dispositions are final in 96.7% of all criminal cases and 98.5% of all civil cases. An additional category of minor offense, called violations, was created by the Legislature in 1976. Decisions of the District Court on violation cases are final and subject to review on writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court.



Map of the State of Rhode Island showing the Divisions of the District Court

Since October 1976, the District Court has had jurisdiction over hearings on involuntary hospitalization under the mental health, drug abuse, and alcoholism laws. The District Court also has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the adjudicatory decisions of the state tax administrator and several regulatory agencies and boards. The court also has the power to order compliance with the subpoenas and rulings of the same agencies and boards. In 1977 this court's jurisdiction was again increased to include violations of state and local housing codes. District Court decisions in all these matters are only subject to review by the Supreme Court.

1989 IN THE RHODE ISLAND COURTS
JUDICIAL BUDGET COMPARISON

	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89*	FY 90*
STATE BUDGET	1,435,709,612	1,530,983,417	1,690,514,501	1,952,030,676	2,013,376,263
Increase	94,155,095	95,273,805	159,531,084	261,516,175	61,345,587
JUDICIAL BUDGET	19,787,183	21,767,858	24,865,040	30,238,213	30,720,475
Increase	1,013,621	1,980,675	3,097,182	5,373,173	482,262
JUDICIAL SHARE	1.38%	1.42%	1.47%	1.54%	1.52%

*Figures represent budget program – previous years are actual expenditures.

The allocation of increased filing fees into a Court Improvement Fund has been an innovative method to assist the Judiciary in meeting growing demands in an austere budget climate. This dedicated revenue will allow the court to implement new programs to improve case flow. An example is the court-annexed aribitration program that began in 1989. The fund also makes possible the upgrading of computer hardware/software and office equipment and furniture replacement. Major outfitting of new facilities and court rehabilitation projects can also be financed directly from the fund. In addition, it is used to augment purchase of court recording equipment and to support the printing of the employee newsletter, annual report, and other special publications. These items were formerly financed entirely by line item budget requests.

The judicial budget has been further enhanced this year as appropriations necessary to meet increased court operating expenses have been supplemented through grants, e.g. the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the State Justice Institute, and Rhode Island Bar Foundation. In FY 1990, grant funding and other federal reimbursement programs totaled $815,332, or 2.7% of the judicial budget; this compares to .3 percent in 1987.

Although the executive and legislative branches have reacted to a caseload that has increased by 29% since 1985 by creating two new judgeships, there must be a greater recognition of the future needs of the judiciary. Other departments such as Corrections and DCF have had substantial budget increases; yet the court, which is also a key component in the adjudication process, has had increases of less than .2% in the past five years.

1989 REPORT ON THE STATE COURT VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

(Pursuant to RIGL 12-28-10)

In October 1988 the State Courts entered into a contract with Justice Assistance, a private criminal justice planning and service agency, to expand Project Victim Services to include Sixth Division District Court and all of Superior Court. After a two-month implementation period, necessary for the hiring and training of personnel, Justice Assistance began providing services statewide addressing all aspects legislated in R.I.G.L. 12-28, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.

In 1989, 2,756 victims of crime in Rhode Island were assisted with services ranging from case status notification, to referrals for specific assistance, to crisis counseling and employer intervention.

Project Victim Services has been supported financially by the General Assembly, the Governor's Justice Commission, fines collected through the Violent Crime Indemnity Fund, and private sector contributions. A program goal is to broaden this base of support and expand the project to the remaining District and Family Courts.

Enrollments	**2,756**
Case Dispositions	
a) Dismissed	55
b) Sentenced	799
c) Filed	21
d) Not Guilty	1
e) Appealed	1
f) Pending	1,879
Services Provided	
a) Employer Intervention	5
b) Crisis Counseling	52
c) Referral Service	1,031
d) System Orientation	2,756
e) Crime Impact Statements	755
f) Court Escort Service	378
g) Case Status Notification	2,756
h) Restitution	30

1989 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VIOLENT CRIMES INDEMNITY FUND

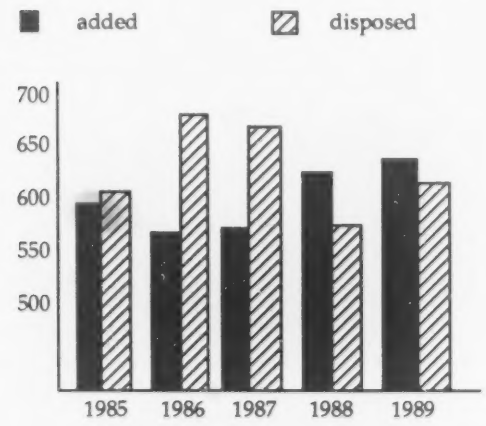
(Pursuant to RIGL 12-25-11)

Fund balance as of January 1, 1989	$15,734
Amount of payments ordered to be paid to the fund during the year	$1,378,015
Funds collected during the year (includes $340,000-Federal VOCA grant)	$1,628,481
Number of claims filed during the year	317
Number of claims adjudicated during the year	108
Number of claims awarded	108
Number of claims denied	0
Funds disbursed during the year	$1,516,960

SUPREME COURT

One highlight of 1989 for the Supreme Court has been an increase in the number of disposed cases due to activity on the motions calendar. In 1988 there were 134 appeals disposed at this stage, and in 1989 the number climbed to 164, an increase of 30. As a result, the total number of appeals disposed rose from 448 a year ago to 592.

CASES DOCKETED vs. CASES DISPOSED

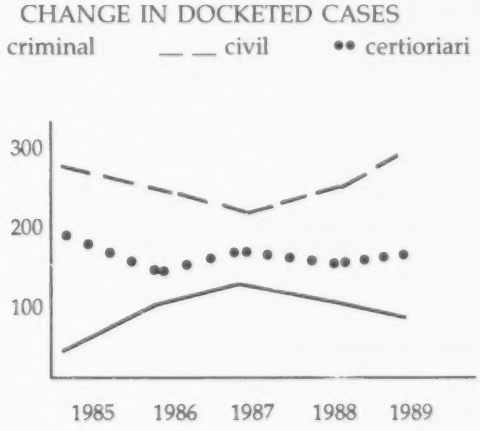


In addition, this was the second year in which the Supreme Court has achieved an average time to disposition of approximately 8½ months. Compared to 1985 this is a 38% reduction in the average time it takes to handle an appeal once it is docketed in the Supreme Court. In 1985 the average processing time was 13.9 months, and over the five-year period this has dropped by 5.3 months.

While 1989 saw an increase in filings at the trial court level, the impact so far has been marginal on the Supreme Court. This year there were 631 appeals docketed, which was an increase of only 13 compared to 1988. Two categories which experienced some growth were civil appeals and petitions for writ of certiorari. Civil appeals were up by ten cases, with 305 appeals filed this year compared to 295 a year ago; petitions for certiorari showed an increase of seven, with 175 cases filed in 1989 as compared to 1988's total of 168. On the other hand, criminal appeals dropped by four cases, from 98 filed a year ago to 94 filed this year.

The other types of cases are lumped together as a miscellaneous category, and there was no change in the total for this group. There were 57 such appeals filed in 1988 and the same number filed again in 1989. Nevertheless, the one area which stands out in this group is disciplinary actions. In 1988 there were five disciplinary actions handled by the court, and this year the number jumped to 17.

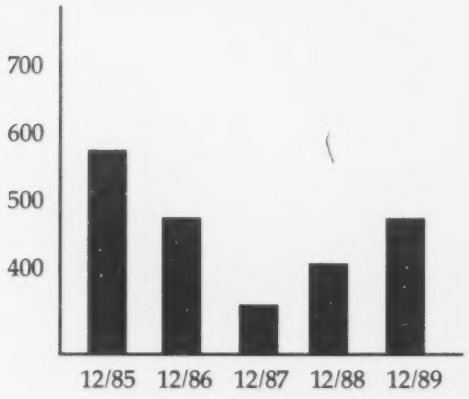
CHANGE IN DOCKETED CASES



While dispositions increased in 1989, as noted above, the number disposed (592) was 32 less than the number docketed (631). As a result, the pending caseload has gone up this year. At the end of December 1988 there were 426 appeals pending, and this December the total has risen to 462. The greatest impact has been on pending civil appeals; in this category the number pending

has risen from 229 last year to 250. There has also been an increase in pending petitions for certiorari, which in a year's time have gone up from 98 to 115.

PENDING CASELOAD AT END OF YEAR



Despite an increase in pending cases, the time to disposition has not been affected (as noted above), and the court is still current in handling its caseload. As an example, at the end of December there were 73 cases awaiting show cause hearing, and these will be heard by April. In addition, there were 74 fully briefed cases ready for oral argument, which will all be heard by May. Nevertheless, because the number of cases awaiting court hearing has risen this past year, starting in 1990 the Supreme Court will schedule one additional case per day on the oral argument calendar and will also schedule extra motion days to dispose of motions which have been pending 45 days or more.

FUTURE OF THE COURTS' SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS ON YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

In 1987 Chief Justice Thomas F. Fay appointed the Commission on the Jurisprudence of the Future. The commission was established to assist the courts in meeting the challenges of the 1990's and is made up of representatives from each court, the executive department, the Legislature, various justice system agencies, and the general public. State Representative Jeffrey Teitz, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, heads the commission. Dr. William Q. O'Hara, president of Bryant College, served as vice-chair from the inception of the committee until September 1989. On President O'Hara's resignation, Chief Justice Fay asked Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph R. Weisberger to serve as the vice chair.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph R. Weisberger

Chief Justice Fay asked the commission to develop a proposal establishing time standards for disposing of various types of criminal, civil, juvenile, and domestic cases. The commission decided to focus initially on the processing of criminal cases, and a criminal standards subcommittee was formed. The subcommittee was made up of commission members and other individuals with expertise in criminal justice.

During 1989 the subcommittee explored numerous issues related to the processing of criminal cases. In particular, the subcommittee discussed the Rhode Island Supreme Court decision *State v. Wheaton* and its impact on the scheduling of cases on the trial calendar. The subcommittee's consensus was that *State v. Wheaton* provides the court with

Representative Jeffrey Teitz and Superior Court Associate Justice Dominic F. Cresto are members of a commission charged with evaluating the shape of the courts in the 90's.

flexibility in the assignment of cases to the calendar in an effort to achieve a good, triable case mix.

The subcommittee met with the entire commission in the fall of 1989 and updated the commission on its work. Other case processing issues were raised, and these issues will constitute the work of the commission in the upcoming year.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A GENDER BIAS REPORT TO EXTEND A SECOND YEAR

The Advisory Committee on Women in the Courts was initially appointed for one year to implement recommendations for eliminating gender bias documented in the 1987 report on Women in the Courts. During its first year the committee's accomplishments included the following:

1. Planning and conducting two statewide conferences on gender bias, one for judges and one for sheriffs and court employees;
2. Drafting proposed revisions to the Canons of Judicial Ethics and the Canons of Professional Responsibility (now the Rules of Professional Conduct);
3. Proposing a system for establishing panels of qualified attorneys for fee generating court appointments;
4. Reviewing the language in all court forms, rules, and publications to eliminate sexist language;
5. Studying the impact of new child support guidelines.

District Court Judge Francis J. Darigan chairs a meeting of the gender bias committee with interns Leslie Matthews, Tara Cunningham and staff liaison Susan McCalmont.

Following submission of its year-end report in March 1989, the Chief Justice extended the life of the Advisory Committee for a second year. In addition, the Chief Justice named District Court Judge Francis J. Darigan, Jr. to succeed Superior Court Justice Corinne P. Grande as chair.

In renaming the committee, the Chief Justice commended the members for not only successfully carrying out all of the recommendations set forth in the 1987 report, but also for identifying additional important areas warranting attention.

The Chief Justice outlined the next tasks for the committee as the following:

1. Conducting training for nonjudicial employees in communication;
2. Studying and proposing solutions to potential gender bias in the division of marital assets, determination of child custody, and awarding of alimony in divorce cases;
3. Implementing the proposal to establish rotating panels for fee-generating appointments;
4. Conducting follow-up studies to measure the progress the courts have made in eliminating gender bias.

Due to the work of the original Women In the Courts Committee and this Advisory Committee, Rhode Island is in the forefront in addressing gender bias. These efforts have the potential of serving as a model for other states.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE MONITORS PREVENTION LEGISLATURE

The Domestic Violence Task Force, established in 1987 by Chief Justice Thomas F. Fay, continued to work on legislative and system changes to enhance the justice system's response to incidents of domestic violence. This task force is co-chaired by Family Court Justice Pamela M. Macktaz and former state representative Marion G. Donnelly.

In 1988 the Rhode Island General Assembly enacted legislation submitted by the task force aimed at preventing incidents

of domestic violence. This legislation stresses protection of the victim and communicates the attitude that violent behavior, regardless of the relationship of the parties, is not tolerated by the justice system. Key components in this legislation are mandatory arrest, mandated police training, and the appropriation of funds to create a domestic violence victim advocate program. This legislation has made Rhode Island a national leader in this area.

The task force and its members have been actively involved in implementing the mandates of this legislation and monitoring the impact of the legislation on the various segments of the justice system and the victims. To fine tune this legislation, the task force submitted numerous bills to the 1989 General Assembly which were passed. Most notable of these bills was legislation increasing the mandated police training on domestic violence issues from two hours to four hours and legislation placing criminal sanctions on a violation of a court issued no-contact order.

Representative Barbara Burlingame

The task force has found that implementation of certain areas of the 1988 legislation has been hampered by a lack of resources to provide the legislated services. Of particular concern in this area has been the mandatory reporting of incidents of domestic violence by law enforcement agencies and medical facilities to the Department of Attorney General. The task force is considering submitting legislation to the 1990 General Assembly to assist in this and similar areas.

With co-chair Marion Donnelly's resignation from the General Assembly, Chief Justice Fay appointed Woonsocket State Representative Barbara Burlingame to the task force. Representative Burlingame submitted and actively advocated the 1989 legislation from the task force and will do so in 1990.

TELECONFERENCING TECHNIQUE: A TIMESAVING PROCEDURE

Associate Justice Florence K. Murray participates in a teleconference call assisted by Appellate Screening staff member Brenda Clement.

An experiment in conducting prebriefing conferences in the Supreme Court via telephone has proven very successful. This teleconferencing technique is designed to speed the flow of cases through the appellate process. This technique, pioneered by Associate Justice Florence K. Murray in 1987, reduces the waiting time between conferences for the conference justice and court staff, and it also saves attorneys' time by eliminating a trip to the courthouse.

Based on the time savings involved, more cases can be conferenced per day than through the traditional in-chambers conference. In addition, with the reduction in attorney travel time, the teleconferences have proven to be valuable in reducing scheduling conflicts.

All cases that are appealed to the court are scheduled for either a teleconference or an in-chambers conference. The Appellate Screening Unit is responsible for setting up the conferences, as well as for reviewing the cases and preparing a short memorandum on each case for the conference justice.

During calendar year 1989, 80 teleconferences were conducted out of a total of 285 prebriefing conferences. The purpose of the teleconference is the same as an in-chambers conference; in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 16(h), the objectives of such conferences are to explore the possibility of settlement and to clarify and focus the issues on appeal. This prebriefing process has been critical in helping the court achieve its present status as one of the most current appellate courts in the country.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD COMPLETES FIFTEEN YEARS OF OPERATION

The Disciplinary Board has completed its fifteenth year of processing complaints against attorneys. The staff which serves the board is headed by Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Frank A. Carter, Jr., who has held the post since 1978. During the early years, the complaint process was handled almost entirely by one person. However, as the number of practicing attorneys in Rhode Island has increased (from 1,800 in 1975 to 4,100 in 1989) so has the workload of the office. Over the fifteen-year period complaints have nearly doubled. Early on, the number averaged 250 per year; in comparison, 1989 saw 477 complaints filed. A contributing factor to the increase in complaints has been greater public awareness of the process through newspaper and TV coverage as well as referrals from the Bar and the Governor's hot line. Because of the commitment to handle all complaints as expeditiously as possible, the staff has been enlarged to two full time and one part time attorney, an investigator, and three secretaries.

The process for handling complaints is as follows. Any person may file a complaint against an attorney if the attorney is a member of the Rhode Island Bar or if the complaint involves a Rhode Island case. After receiving answers and responses to a complaint and after an independent investigation is conducted, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel brings the case to the Disciplinary Board at one of its monthly meetings. At that time a determination is made to either dismiss the complaint or to authorize a petition for formal disciplinary action. The Disciplinary Board may only take action when there has been a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The board acts as fact finders to determine whether misconduct has occurred and forwards those determinations requiring further action to the Supreme Court, which then decides if the attorney is to be disciplined. Over 80 percent of the complaints are dismissed, as many involve a fee dispute or dissatisfaction with the manner in which a case was handled, normally not attorney misconduct. Complaints are usually processed in three to four months.

Frank A. Carter, Jr., Chief Disciplinary Council, reviews a complaint with Deputy Mary M. Lisi.

Another Disciplinary Board responsibility is handling requests for reinstatement. In 1989 there were three such applications; two were denied and one was withdrawn.

Attorneys who practice in Rhode Island contribute to the support of the Disicplinary Board through a yearly registration fee that is paid directly to the Supreme Court.

APPELLATE SCREENING UNIT COMPLETES REORGANIZATION

The Appellate Screening Unit completed its 14th year more streamlined because of changes brought about by a reorganization. Last year the office was restructured to encompass all case screening activity from the first prebriefing statement to final oral argument. This year the clerical staff underwent some changes as well. The staff secretary was given additional office responsibilities and now serves as administrative assistant for the entire office.

The Appellate Screening Unit serves as the central staff attorneys' office for the Supreme Court. The unit continued its work of screening all civil and criminal appeals in preparation for the prebriefing conferences conducted by the justices. The staff also prepared prehearing reports for 117 cases that were heard on the full argument calendar. These reports include a detailed summary of the facts and travel of each case, independent research by the attorneys, and an analysis of the legal issues presented. The reports are distributed to the justices prior to oral argument.

LAW CLERK POOL EXPANDS

For the 1989-1990 term, the Law Clerk Pool increased in size and expanded the service it provides. The pool has been enlarged from fourteen to seventeen law clerks to accommodate the Superior, Family, and District Court justices, as well as the Workers' Compensation Commission, the Disciplinary Counsel, and Appellate Screening. This expansion was necessary to meet the growing caseload in Providence as well as Kent County.

In general, law clerk assignments rotate every three months. Currently, there are two law clerks assigned to the Kent County Courthouse, one to Newport County, and one to Washington County. The Garrahy Judicial Complex has three clerks to assist the judge on the daily motion and formal and special cause calendars, as well as the judges in the Family and District Courts. The remaining law clerks are assigned to the Licht Judicial Complex to assist the Superior Court justices and the Disciplinary Counsel.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES

The Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice prepares the Supreme Court's weekly conference calendar. This calendar incorporates virtually all items of business requiring the court's attention.

The weekly conference calendar contains a significant portion of the legal motions and petitions filed in pending appeals. Many of these motions are seeking the resolution of minor procedural issues that routinely arise in the travel of an appeal. Other motions, such as certiorari petitions, embrace matters of more consequence both to the parties and the court. These latter petitions, of necessity, demand considerable attention, thus leaving this office with less time to devote to its other responsibilities, which include arranging appointments for attorneys with the Duty Judge, meeting with attorneys and/or members of the public who have questions regarding pending or prospective appeals, and attending to other in-house administrative duties.

Administrative Assistant Ronald A. Tutalo

The 1989 Final Management Report of Supreme Court Statistics disclosed only a negligible increase in the number of filings of extraordinary writs (certiorari, habeas corpus, etc.). Since these type of writs primarily impact on the workload of the administrative assistant's office, this was positive news.

COMMITTEE COMPLETES REVIEW OF SENTENCING BENCHMARKS

Associate Justice Thomas F. Kelleher has chaired a committee that was reassembled to review sentencing guidelines that had been in place since 1984. Six of the eleven committee members had participated in drafting the original benchmarks that were adopted in 1981. The committee was charged with evaluating the guidelines in light of the various statutory and constitutional enactments that had occurred since their promulgation. As part of the study, the committee analyzed data from the court's automated tracking system for cases disposed of during the previous year to see if existing benchmarks

marks were being used. In addition, a questionnaire was distributed to justices of the Superior Court and to District Court judges who handled felony cases while sitting on Superior Court prearraignment calendars. For the most part there was general agreement that the benchmarks are as complete a reference tool as possible at this time. The only revisions that were proposed related to drug offenses as a result of legislation enacted in 1988 establishing penalties for specific quantities of drugs.

RULE CHANGE ADDS BAR EXAM REQUIREMENTS

The Court has adopted a Rule which requires applicants to attain a scaled score of 80 on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination prior to sitting for the Rhode Island Bar Exam. This becomes effective for the July 1990 bar exam.This year the Court admitted 170 new attorneys, which brings the number of practicing attorneys in the state to 4,092.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

BOTELLE LAW LIBRARY DEDICATED TO SERVE WASHINGTON COUNTY

McGrath Judicial Complex's Botelle Law Library

On November 14, 1989 the state dedicated the library of the new J. Howard McGrath Judicial Complex in Washington County to the memory of attorney Edward M. Botelle. A leading member of the Rhode Island and Washington County Bar Associations for many years, Edward Botelle practiced in both Westerly and Hope Valley. Following his death in 1987, his wife, Mary, arranged for the donation of his entire law library to the State of Rhode Island, together with a sizeable cash donation to be held in trust for the annual purchase of books and supplements. This amounts to the single largest donation to the State Law Library in its history. The Edward M. Bottelle Law Library will stand as a memorial to a man who gave unselfishly of his time and resources to the Washington County Bar Association and the legal profession.

LAW LIBRARY EXTENDS SERVICES THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGY

A public Westlaw terminal and the introduction of CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) technology highlighted new developments at the State Law Library during 1989. The State Law Library's initial experience with Westlaw was as a research aid at the disposal of the library staff and the law clerks serving the Supreme Court and trial courts. In May 1989, however, the library began offering this computerized legal research service to the general public on a cost-recovery basis. The experience during the seven months this service has been in place has been extremely positive. It has been particularly well received by attorneys who make only occasional use of this service and wish to avoid the regular lease and service charges which they would incur as direct subscribers.

The State Law Library also entered the era of compact disc technology with the introduction of Legal Trac, the most extensive legal periodical index currently available. Legal Trac allows library users to access the contents of more than 700 legal periodicals and law-

related articles from more than 350 general periodicals. With the aid of an accompanying printer, Legal Trac permits the user to print out each desired citation. New compact discs, containing cumulative index entries for the period since January 1980 are received on a monthly basis.

An even more significant development took place at the end of the year when the library received the NELLCO CD-ROM Union Catalog. The Union Catalog provides library users with access to the machine-readable cataloging records of the sixteen law libraries in the New England Law Library Consortium, including the holdings of the Harvard, Yale, and Social Law Libraries. The Union Catalog presently contains over 100,000 distinct catalog records for holdings in the collections of the sixteen-member libraries.

This year the State Law Library also acquired 2,388 volumes in hard copy and 912 volumes in microfiche, bringing its total holdings to more than 106,000 volumes. The continued acquisition of a variety of items in microfiche format has allowed the library to significantly expand the shelf space devoted to current legal treatises and other heavily used materials.

STORAGE DEMANDS REQUIRE JUDICIAL RECORDS CENTER RELOCATION

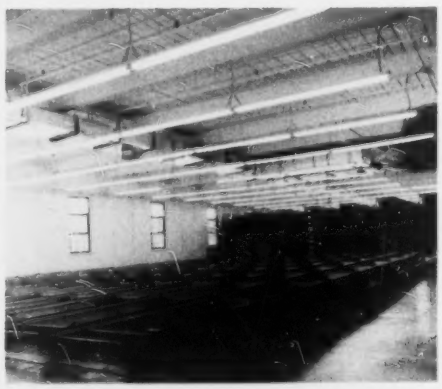
The Judicial Records Center has been located for many years in the Licht Judicial Complex. Additional records dating from 1671 to 1905 were being stored at Providence College, and records from 1906 to 1970 were at the State Records Center. The records maintained include those of the unified court system, records of the Department of the Attorney General, Department of the Public Defender, and the Department of Probation and Parole.

An increase in judicial records in the late 1980's, the inability of the State Records Center to accept additional records, and the planned renovations to the Licht Judicial Complex necessitated a new storage facility. As a short term solution, private storage space was acquired.

After reviewing over 20 proposals for rental space, the State Properties Committee approved a new location for the Judicial Records Center at One Hill Street, Pawtucket. A two-month move was completed in November 1989, and the Judicial Records Center began operating out of the new location. The new location is controlled for temperature and humidity, utilizes a state-of-the-art security system, and is protected against fire with a sprinkler system.

A bright new office greets visitors to the relocated Records Center in Pawtucket

Although the intent of the relocation was to consolidate all record storage, 12,000 boxes of records still remain at an off-site facility. However, the planned implementation of a high density mobile shelving system will enable all judicial records to be moved to the new facility in the near future. Also planned is a computerized records management retrieval system. A bar-coding system will enable records to move in and out of the facility without use of keyboard data entry, thus speeding up retrieval procedures. This system has the ability for future expansion and for use in the courts to track records from creation.



High density mobile shelving allows greater space utilization since only a single aisle is needed for access to all files.

Since records cannot be maintained indefinitely, the Supreme Court has reactivated the Commission on Judicial Records. This commission will review record retention schedules for all cases, those that are active and in storage, and make recommendations to the court for adoption.

Additionally, there were historically valuable judicial records which needed attention, and planning for the storage of these records was incorporated in the relocation plans. The records will be housed within the Judicial Records Center in a spacious, well-lighted room, and an Archives and Records Management Analyst has been hired to maintain these historical documents. With the approval of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Historical Society, the Judicial Records Center has applied for grants from various foundations to arrange and preserve the state's historical records, many of which have been neglected and damaged.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE'S GENERAL COUNSEL NOTES ACTIVE YEAR

Staff Attorneys Gail Higgins Fogarty (l) and Judy Robbins serve as "House Counsel" to the state court system.

Greater demands placed on the Administrative Office of State Courts has created a need to revamp and broaden the focus of the Office of General Counsel.

Gail Higgins Fogarty, Esq., serves as General Counsel and is assisted by Judy S. Robbins, Esq., a staff attorney. They act as "House Counsel" to the state court system as a branch of government, handling the many legal issues that arise in that context.

The office has been involved in representing the court system in labor contract negotiations with the court unions and also in grievance and arbitration proceedings that arise under these collective bargaining agreements. The office also deals with other issues that relate to labor contract administration.

Another responsibility of the office is to coordinate the development of new legislation aimed at improving the judicial system and to monitor legislation which may impact the judiciary. Once new laws are enacted, the office formulates procedures to implement them.

The office also assists and advises the Character and Fitness Committee of the Supreme Court. It is the responsibility of this committee, created in 1988, to review the petitions, interview candidates, and investigate the backgrounds of all applicants to the Rhode Island Bar, and to make recommendations to the Supreme Court with regard to each applicant's moral character and fitness to practice law in the State. The Counsel's Office also assists the Women in the Courts Committee, as well as other task forces and departments within the state court system.

Court Television Series "JUSTICE FOR ALL" Wins National Citation

The American Bar Association presented the Office of Public Information with a Silver Gavel Award certificate of merit for public service at its annual meeting in Chicago in 1989. The award was for the television series, *Justice For All*, a quarterly report from the courts. In presenting the award, the ABA noted that major market television stations from across the country competed for recognition in the national Silver Gavel program.

Each *Justice For All* report is a part documentary, part live, TV-talk show featuring judges and other legal experts. Use of the court-centered TV program has enabled Rhode Island to become a national leader in the use of television to help educate and inform the community about the judicial branch of government. Program topics for 1989 included:

1. Your Courts and Victim Restitution;
2. Your Courts and Victim Rights;
3. How Your Courts Help Protect Victims of Domestic Violence;
4. Your Courts, You, and the Victim's Bill of Rights.

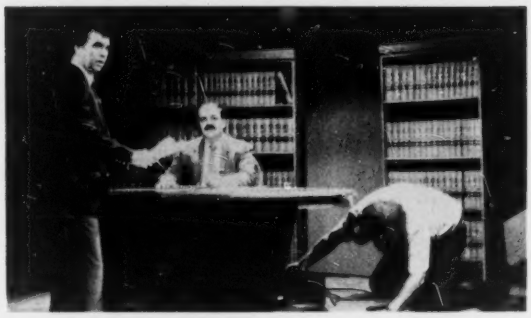
In presenting the national media awards, ABA President, Robert Raven, cited series writer/producer/host, James Roberts, director of the Judiciary's Office of Public Information, for making a "noteworthy contribution to public understanding of law and justice." The hour-long docu/discussion programs were broadcast live by all Rhode Island cable television systems and by PBS-TV affiliate Channel 36 and received partial underwriting from the Rhode Island Bar Foundation.

Chief Justice Thomas F. Fay (c) and WSBE manager Susan Farmer accept Silver Gavel Award from Lester Salter, Rhode Island delegate to the American Bar Association.

The series has been well received, and many high school and college educators are using videotapes of the programs as classroom teaching tools. The Rhode Island Department of Education is exploring ways to expand the program statewide in order to increase student knowledge about the courts.

Other projects initiated by the Office of Public Information during 1989 included the publication of public service pamphlets on such topics as victim rights, victim restitution, domestic violence, and the Violent Crimes Indemnity Fund (VCIF). They are being distributed statewide by police, civic groups, and via courthouse information racks.

A series of meetings with the leadership of the Providence County Chamber of Commerce was also initiated. As a result, the



Air time is moments away as a technician makes adjustments while Jim Roberts (l) and Master Anthony Carnevale, Jr. await the red broadcast light.

Chamber has agreed to develop a judiciary component for its popular "Leadership Rhode Island" program, and the courts will also play a role in the Chamber's "Government Day" and "Justice Day" activities. This participation provides the judiciary with access to business, civic, and government leaders from across the state and offers opportunities for developing better understanding and knowledge of the courts' responsibilities and needs.

A new "Teacher Resource Guide to Rhode Island Courts" was also introduced this year showing educators how to arrange for court speakers and court tours as well as how to acquire age-appropriate lesson plans and court-related materials. The guide gives teachers concise information about the function and history of the Rhode Island Judiciary.

MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE COURT FACILITIES AND ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL SPACE

As a result of Chief Justice Fay's initiative to expand court services, space has become a primary court need. To meet this need the Administrative Office of State Courts, in conjunction with the Department of Administration, has sought to acquire additional facilities. In December of 1989, the federal government agreed to sell the Fogarty Building/U.S. Custom House to the state for $1.95 million. After a building review, the site will be renovated for use by the Arbitration Unit, Disciplinary Counsel, and Bail Unit. Also, space will be provided for a conference/hearing room and a bench/bar meeting room.

A major renovation of the Newport courthouse project began in April 1989. The project will completely restore the facility and will expand the space from 25,000 to 30,000 square feet. The work will include renovation to the mechanical systems (heat, ventilation, air-conditioning) and an upgrade of the plumbing, fixtures and electrical services. The estimated cost for the project is $5.4 million.

Planning for the Phase III renovations to the Licht Judicial Complex also began this year. This phase will include the installation of new elevators, total rehabilitation of the plumbing and electrical systems, the creation of some additional courtroom space, new facilities for the Grand Jury and general improvement of all interior space.

Court space needs will be partially satisfied by acquisition of Fogarty Building on Weybosset Street

COMPUTER SUPPORT UNIT COMPLETES MAJOR PROJECT

The Rhode Island Judicial Systems and Sciences Office (RIJSS) completed a major project involving the courts' automated system this past year. The undertaking involved a complete rewrite and restructuring of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) database and software and the adding of District Court to the sentencing portion of the system.

Three programmers worked six months on the project, including weekends, and a five-day conversion took place on the Memorial Day holiday to minimize system interruption. A committee made up of staff from the Superior Court, District Court, and the Department of the Attorney General coordinated the conversion. Along with an increase in capacity that is expected to be adequate for five to ten years of growth, the system now allows hands-on training to be conducted without affecting court records. The upgrade also:

1. Increases security by easily identifying entry origins;
2. Reduces the number of steps to modify case records;
3. Allows backward and forward paging;
4. Introduces screens to speed data entry;
5. Provides a complete case history from first entry;
6. Provides judges with a docket sheet showing complete case history.

Also, a major equipment upgrade this year involved the installation of a stand-alone minicomputer in the new McGrath Judicial Complex, increasing the system's terminal capacity and access to Kent County and the Garrahy and Licht Complexes.

CJIS SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

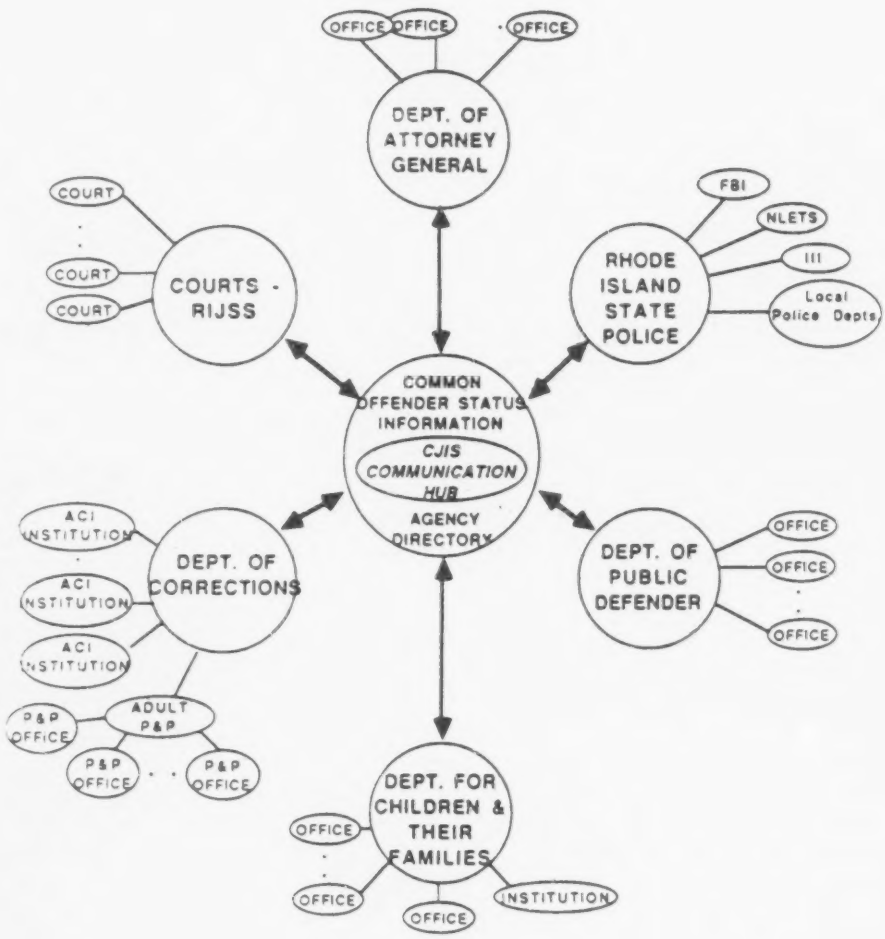
For many years the various criminal justice agencies in Rhode Island have sought the development of a Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) which would establish a common database for their mutual use. Although some pieces of such a system have been developed by individual justice agencies, legal and funding constraints have prevented the development of a truly comprehensive system.

During the 1989 session the General Assembly addressed this problem through legislation which created the necessary legal and administrative framework and provided funding for the project. Project implementation began in the summer of 1989.

The project is under the overall supervision of a three-person Implementation Committee composed of Anthony Piccirilli, R.I. Auditor General; Mary Parella, Director of the Governors Justice Commission, and Matthew J. Smith, State Court Administrator. The committee is working with an advisory group made up of representatives from the various agencies that will be part of the system. The committee plans to engage a consulting firm

to carry out project management. To that end it has solicited proposals from interested firms who feel they can develop specifications for the required program modules and the related software and hardware support systems. The proposals will be evaluated by the committee, and it is expected that a consultant will be engaged in early 1990.

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO AN INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS OFFICE RESPONDS TO COURT STAFF NEEDS

Employee relations office personnel: l-r, Bill Melone, Linda Bonaccorsi, Tom Dorazio and Linda Litchfield

Court staffing levels fluctuated much more than usual in 1989. It was also a year of protracted contract negotiations and a number of changes in position classifications. Each one of these changes required special personnel actions that added to the routine duties of the Employee Relations Office.

For example, the basic form used in this office is a five-part Personnel Action Form (CS-3). In 1989, 791 of these forms were prepared, submitted to the State Division of Personnel, entered on the payroll, and then used to update personnel reports. Copies were also distributed to appointing authorities who distributed them to the employees, and a copy was retained in the employee's personnel file.

Personnel actions that require substantial work are those involving hiring, promotion, transfers, and terminations. This past year saw 47 new employees hired, 28 promotions, 10 transfers and 39 terminations. In addition to these changes in regular positions, 28 law clerks and 33 summer employees were processed within the year. The amount of work generated by these major actions can be indicated by noting that 20 separate forms are needed to hire a new employee and 7 to terminate one.

The major focus of the Employee Relations Office routine centers around the bi-weekly payroll, the size of which fluctuates reflecting staff turnovers. The number of employees on each payroll varied from a low of 485 to a summer high of 523. With an average of about 500 employees there were over 13,000 checks issued during the year. Although every payroll includes many changes in employees and work locations, not one of these checks was lost by the Employee Relations Office.

As the Employee Relations Office is the source of most personnel and payroll information, one of the duties of this office is collecting and reporting information to administrative offices of individual courts, the State Court Administrator's office, bargaining unit representatives and individual employees. To help in responding to requests for information, the Employee Relations Office is exploring the increased use of automated data processing. RIJSS has connected the office to the State Division of Personnel database as an alternate source of data on current individual position actions. Future possibilities include interactive connection with the state database for payroll and attendance reports, and automated processing by the Division of Personnel of some manual operations such as calculations of annual increases for Judicial pensions. Use of the courts' mainframe or distributed data processing on a personal computer has also been suggested to build a specialized court personnel database to collect and report some kinds of position or payroll information more quickly.

Presiding Justice
Anthony A. Giannini

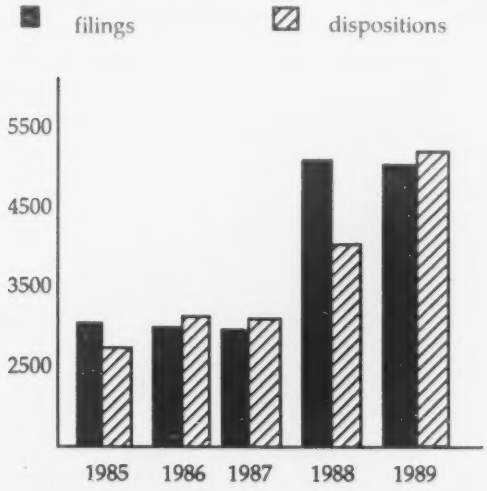
SUPERIOR COURT

Administrator
William J. McAtee, Esq.

Compared to 1988, filings in Superior Court have shown only a modest increase this year. Last year there were 16,726 filings courtwide, marking a 23.4% jump over the year before, while this year filings totalled 17,728, a growth rate of only six percent.

Felony filings were the category primarily responsible for the increase last year; between 1987 and 1988 this category rose by 56%. However, this year felonies have leveled off. There were 6,685 felonies filed statewide in 1988, and this year's total has been 6,740, an increase of only 55 cases or less than one percent.

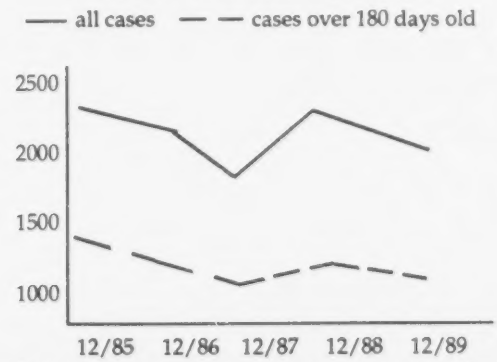
PROVIDENCE COUNTY FELONY CASEFLOW



Providence County, where felonies increased by 70% a year ago, has experienced a slight drop in filings this year. The 1988 total was 5,142, and this year it was 5,049. Kent County has also shown a slight decline in felony filings. The 1988 figure was 768, and this year filings were down by 11, for a total of 757. On the other hand, both Washington and Newport counties have had increases in their felony filings this year. In Washington County the number filed rose from 453 to 487, an increase of 34 cases, and in Newport County felony filings jumped from 322 to 447, a 39% rise.

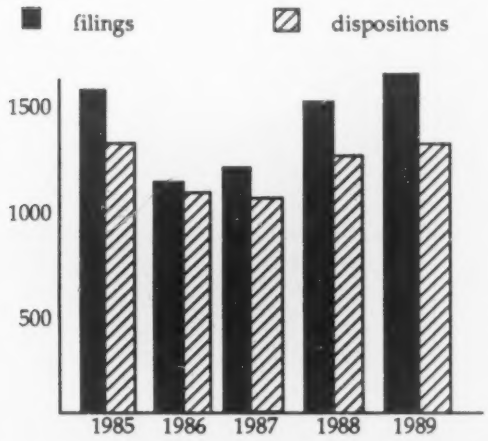
While felony filings have generally leveled off, with the exception of Newport, dispositions have gone up almost 20% this year. In Providence County felony dispositions exceeded filings by 178 cases, with 5,227 cases disposed compared to 5,049 filed. Although the difference was 178 cases, the pending caseload was reduced by 530 cases (due to warrants). At the end of 1988 there were 2,407 felonies pending in Providence County, and this year the number was down to 1,877. In addition, the number of cases pending over 180 days has been reduced from 1,487 to 1,160; yet, the percent of cases over 180 days old remains at 62%.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
PENDING FELONY CASELOAD



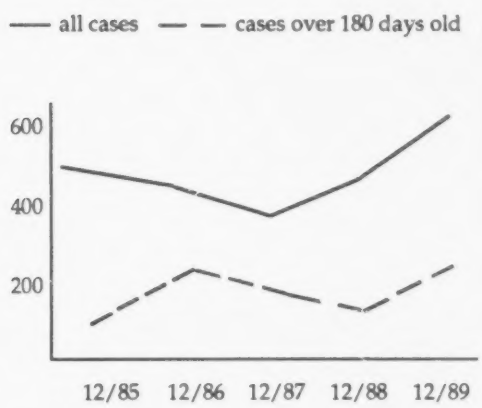
Felony dispositions also increased in Kent and Washington Counties but did not match filings. In Kent County the number disposed was 715, 36 more than in 1988, but dispositions fell short of filings by 42 cases (757 were filed). Likewise, in Washington County dispositions totalled 419, 43 more than were disposed in 1988, but they fell short of the number filed by 68 cases (filings totalled 417).

OUT-COUNTIES FELONY CASEFLOW



Due to the gap between filings and dispositions, both counties had a higher number of pending felonies at the end of the year. In Kent County the pending felony caseload rose from 210 to 225, and the cases over 180 days old increased from 27 to 69. As a percentage, the cases over 180 days old rose from 12.9% to 30.7%. In Washington County the number pending went from 196 to 244, and the cases over 180 days old rose from 85 to 105, but the percentage of cases in this category remained the same (43%).

OUT-COUNTIES
PENDING FELONY CASELOAD

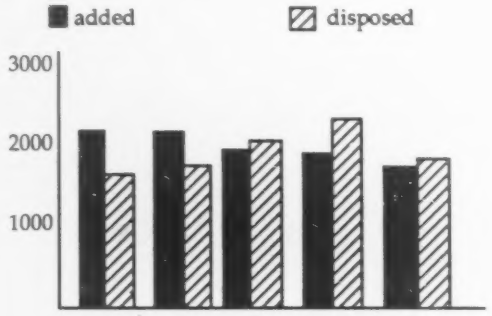


In Newport County there was a temporary relocation of the court while renovations were done on the courthouse. Because of security and space problems in the temporary quarters, activity on the criminal calendar was very limited this year, while filings rose to a five-year high. As a result, dispositions were lower than in 1988, and the total disposed, 215, was less than half the number filed (447). This affected the pending felony caseload, which rose from 196 to 325, as well as the cases over 180 days old, which jumped from 99 to 194. At the end of the year, the cases over 180 days old were 60% of the total.

Misdemeanor filings continued to fluctuate this year, showing a down turn. The total filed courtwide was 867, while a year ago it was 1,178. The difference was due primarily to filings in Providence County, which dropped by 300 cases from 866 cases filed in 1988 to 566 in 1989. Washington County also had a lower number of misdemeanor appeals this year; in fact, it was the lowest number filed for the five-year period (77). On the other hand, misdemeanor filings showed almost no change in Newport County compared to 1988; there were 69 cases filed in 1988 and 62 in 1989. Kent was the only county where there was an increase in misdemeanors; the number rose from 136 last year to 162 this year.

Statewide there were 686 misdemeanors pending at the end of the year, and 77% of these were over 180 days old.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR CASEFLOW

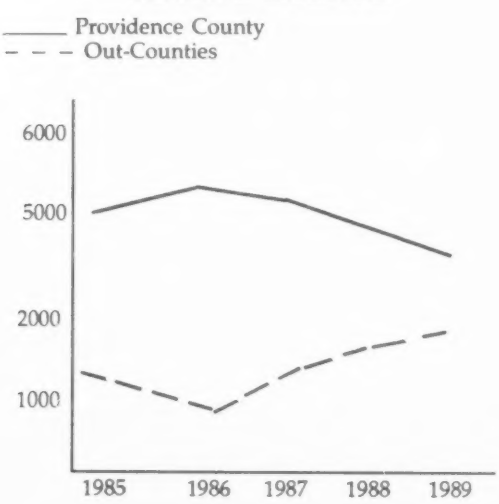


On the civil side case filings showed a 14% increase, which was the largest annual rate of growth for the five-year period. Most of this increase occurred in Providence County, where filings rose above 7,000 for the first time. (The total filed was 7,090.) Washington County had the greatest percentage increase (21%), and filings also reached a record by surpassing 800 for the first time (826 cases were filed). Civil filings were higher too, in

Kent and Newport counties, but the annual increase was not as dramatic. In Kent County civil filings rose by 128 from 1,442 to 1,570, and in Newport County the number rose from 613 to 635.

Despite the jump in civil filings in Providence, there was a drop in cases added to the trial calendar; the number added to the trial calendar has been steadily declining each year since 1985. In 1985 there were 2,196 cases added, and in 1989 the number was 1,732, a decrease of 464 cases or 21%.

CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR
PENDING CASELOAD



The number disposed on the Providence civil trial calendar was 1,756, with 174 of the dispositions resulting from the new arbitration program which began in July. At the end of the year, there were 5,066 cases pending, a reduction of 539 from the number pending at the end of 1986 (5,605). (Although the difference between added and disposed cases was 24, there was a 130 case drop in the pending caseload because of entries made on previously disposed cases.)

In contrast to Providence, the cases added to the trial calendar showed increases in both Kent and Washington counties. In Kent County the number added to the calendar totaled 553, which was a five-year high. Compared to 1985 the civil trial caseload has risen by 52% in Kent. Cases added to the civil trial calendar in Washington County were also at a five-year high, with 253 cases added. In both counties the number disposed fell short of added cases but represented a significant increase over dispositions for the previous year. In Kent County there were 362 cases disposed (191 less than were added); yet compared to 1988 this was an increase of 113 or 45%. In Washington County the number disposed was 219, which was 34 less than were added but more than double dispositions in 1988.

The number of cases pending on the civil trial calendar was higher in both counties at year end. In Kent the number pending totaled 1,017, and in Washington the caseload climbed to 500.

Newport County, like Providence, had fewer cases added to the civil calendar this year. In 1988 the total added was 178, and this year it dropped to 135. Dispositions for the year were 107, 28 below the number added, and as a result, the pending caseload rose from 374 to 402.

COURT ANNEXED ARBITRATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

During 1989 the Superior Court initiated its first court-annexed arbitration program, which will operate at first in Providence County only. The program uses trained attorney arbitrators to hear civil cases in which the claim for monetary relief is under $50,000. Attorneys who serve as arbitrators must have ten or more years membership in the Rhode Island Bar and must complete an arbitrator's orientation program. Attorneys with less than ten years membership may also serve as arbitrators with the approval of the presiding justice. At the program's inception, there were 275 attorneys who were approved as arbitrators.

It is anticipated that the new arbitration program will be able to handle approximately 2,000 cases per year. Experience with arbitration programs in other jurisdictions across the country indicates that about 1,000 of these cases, roughly 50%, will result in settlements as the prospect of an arbitration hearing looms ever nearer; the other 1,000 will go through the full arbitration process. Obviously, diversion of this number of cases to arbitration will have a tremendous impact on

Superior Court civil calendars in Providence County.

By obviating the need for many time-consuming and costly trials, this revolutionary new program will not only ease the civil caseload, but will do so at less expense to taxpayers. In addition, arbitration will help the courts speed case handling on all levels. Diverting less complicated civil cases from formal trial court procedures will allow Superior Court judges to spend more time on the complicated civil and criminal cases which require judicial intervention.

Austin O. Tague, Deputy Director, and Louis M. Cioci, Program Administrator, discuss arbitration program activities.

The new program is being administered by the arbitration unit, which is headed by Attorney Louis Cioci. The unit is housed in the Garrahy Judicial Complex and is responsible for maintaining a list of arbitrators, coordinating the selection of arbitrators, record keeping and statistical reporting, and other functions necessary to sustain the program. The arbitration program is supported through the "court improvement fund".

According to the legislation authorizing the establishment of a court-annexed arbitration program, arbitration is mandatory for all cases under $50,000 with specific exceptions for certain cases as outlined in the rules. Arbitration is also non-binding, and the parties may appeal the arbitrator's award by requesting a trial without regard to the outcome of the arbitration hearing. A $100 filing fee must be posted at the time of an appeal of an arbitrator's decision, and if the trial verdict is more favorable to the party who rejected the arbitrator's award, the filing fee will be reimbursed. Rhode Island currently has the lowest appeal fee of any state using arbitration.

FEDERAL GRANT ASSISTS IN FELONY CASE PROCESSING

In 1988 the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) selected Rhode Island as one of four sites in the nation to receive $705,000 to develop a coordinated, system-wide approach for the adjudication of drug offenders. The funding was made available under the BJA's Comprehensive Adjudication of Drug Arrestees (CADA) project. Santa Clara, California; Orleans Parish, Louisiana; and Flint, Michigan were the three other sites selected. The CADA project began August 1, 1988 and was funded through December 31, 1989.

The CADA project operated in Providence/Bristol County and was aimed at assisting the justice system in the processing of felony cases. The CADA objectives were to reduce the time from initial appearance in District Court to Superior Court arraignment and to reduce the number of felony cases pending over 270 days old.

The CADA project was a system-wide undertaking led by the court. The grant provided five state agencies and the City of Providence with a total of fourteen new staff positions and $100,000 for drug analysis equipment and in-patient drug counseling. The agencies receiving funds under this grant were the Superior and District Courts, the Department of the Attorney General, the Department of Mental Health Retardation and Hospitals, the Department of Health, the Department of Corrections, and the City of Providence Police Department. The Department of the Public Defender did not receive any funds under this grant, but this department played an integral role in the success of the project.

The funds provided under this grant allowed the system to:

1. Reduce the time it takes to complete toxicologists' reports on substances from twelve to fourteen weeks, to five to six weeks, an improvement of almost 60%.
2. Reduce the time from initial appearance in District Court to arraignment in Superior Court from sixteen to twenty weeks, to ten to fourteen weeks, an improvement of 35%.
3. Combat a seventy percent increase in felony filings by increasing felony

dispositions by 69% during the seventeen months of this project.

One reason for the success of the CADA project was the implementation of an innovative step in the initial stage of the court process. In mid-1988 Superior Court Presiding Justice Anthony A. Giannini instituted a proposal which established a ten-week time schedule for felony cases from initial appearance in District Court to arraignment in Superior Court. The proposal also included incorporating a new event at this stage, the prearraignment conference (PAC). PAC takes place one week prior to the Superior Court arraignment and is designed to afford the defense and prosecution an opportunity to discuss an appropriate disposition of a case with a judge.

This new procedure has resulted in an increase in dispositions at this initial stage. Prior to the implementation of PAC, approximately ten to twelve percent of felony dispositions occurred prior to or at arraignment. During 1989, with PAC in place, dispositions at this stage increased to approximately 47% of the total.

Another improvement at this stage was the ability of the Health Department Laboratory to complete toxiciologists' reports in a more timely fashion. The improvement at the laboratory was in part due to $70,000 worth of equipment purchased under the CADA project. The availability of this equipment and other management steps within the laboratory reduced the time for the testing of substances from twelve weeks to six weeks.

The CADA grant also provided additional resources at the trial stage. The grant funded an associate justice, a court reporter, and a court clerk, providing the managing judge on the criminal trial calendar with five trial judges instead of four.

The resources provided by CADA allowed the system to respond to a dramatic increase in felony filings. As depicted in the chart below, felony filings increased 70% between 1987 and 1988 and remained at the same number in 1989. The court was able to respond to this influx by disposing of 35% more cases in 1988 than in 1987 and by increasing dispositions by another 24% in 1989. Thus, from 1987 to 1989 the court implemented a system which increased dispositions by 69%.

PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY
FELONY FILINGS and FELONY DISPOSITIONS

	Felony Filings	Felony Dispositions
1987	3,020	3,102
1988	5,142	4,192
1989	5,049	5,227

SUPERIOR COURT ATTACKS BACKLOG

During the course of the Comprehensive Adjudication of Drug Arrestees (CADA) project, Superior Court initiated other efforts to improve the processing of felony cases.

One example was a special disposition calendar which ran during the first two weeks of December. This effort was the result of a coordinated effort of various offices within the Superior Court, the Administrative Office of State Courts, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Department of the Public Defender.

The effort targeted 713 non-capital felony cases over 300 days old. Twelve to fifteen of these cases were assigned to judges on the trial calendar each day for conferencing. During the conference the merits of the case were discussed, and an effort was made to reach an appropriate disposition.

Below is the breakdown of what happened to the 713 cases.

Results	# of Cases	% of Total
Disposed	313	44%
Continued for Disposition	32	4%
Warranted	171	24%
Continued for Trial	157	22%
Removed from Calendar	40	6%

As the results indicate, 48% of the cases were disposed (44% disposed and 4% continued for disposition); 24% of the cases could not be conferenced, because the defendant failed to appear, and therefore, a warrant was issued; and 22% were continued for trial.

This effort and the cases handled on the other criminal calendars during this two-week period resulted in 424 dispositions for the month of December, more than double the number of felony dispositions in this

month during the last four years. The comparison to 1988 is the most relevant, because the PAC calendar was operating in both 1988 and 1989. In 1988 there were 200 felony dispositions in December as compared to 424 in 1989.

As a follow-up to this effort the judges and attorneys involved in the disposition calendar were asked to complete a questionnaire. The five judges on the calendar, eight Public Defenders, and ten prosecutors responded (23 total responses). Ninety-one percent (91%) of those responding indicated that the program accomplished its objective, and the same number felt that this type of effort was worth repeating.

JOHN J. HOGAN RETIRES AFTER SEVENTEEN YEARS. . .

John J. Hogan

John J. Hogan retired from the position of Superior Court Administrator in July 1989, taking advantage of the early retirement incentive program for state employees.

Originally appointed Superior Court Administrator by then Presiding Justice Stephen A. Fanning in April 1972, Mr. Hogan was later reappointed by Presiding Justices Joseph R. Weisberger, Florence K. Murray and Anthony A. Giannini. Mr. Hogan holds bachelors degrees from both Providence College and Roger Williams College, and is a fellow of the Institute for Court Management. He is an adjunct instructor at Roger Williams College.

During his seventeen-year tenure as Superior Court Administrator, Mr. Hogan was instrumental in overseeing a multitude of transformations at the state court trial level in the areas of personnel, budget and caseflow management. As the Superior Court bench expanded from thirteen judges in 1972 to twenty judges in 1989, Mr. Hogan developed and implemented the necessary administrative changes to meet the challenge of changing times. He facilitated the advancements of computer technology in the trial court in the areas of jury management, caseflow management and stenographic transcription. In addition, he was responsible for many key legislative initiatives affecting the judiciary. He was a member of the Unclassified Pay Plan Board and served as Chairman for three years.

. . .AND WILLIAM J. McATEE IS APPOINTED NEW SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATOR

William J. McAtee

William J. McAtee was appointed Superior Court Administrator by Presiding Justice Anthony A. Giannini and was sworn in on November 1, 1989. Mr. McAtee brings to this position a diverse background as an educator, politician and attorney. Prior to his arrival at Superior Court, Mr. McAtee was a history teacher at Cumberland High School for the last twenty years. He served in the Rhode Island General Assembly, representing his native town of Cumberland for the last seven years, and was Deputy Majority Leader of the House of Representatives. In addition, Mr. McAtee was engaged in the private practice of law.

Mr. McAtee holds both a bachelor and a master's degree in history from Providence College and a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School.

ELECTRONIC COURT REPORTING INTRODUCED

In an attempt to avert a crisis situation due to a shortage of court stenographers, electronic court reporting was used in Superior Court in 1989. A shortage of court stenographers, the unavailability of a private agency to provide services on a per diem basis, and the necessity to actually close down courtrooms for lack of stenographic coverage moved the court to turn to electronic recording to take the record.

This alternative method of court reporting requires the attendance of an electronic court reporter in the courtroom to operate an electronic system which provides a verbatim record of court proceedings.

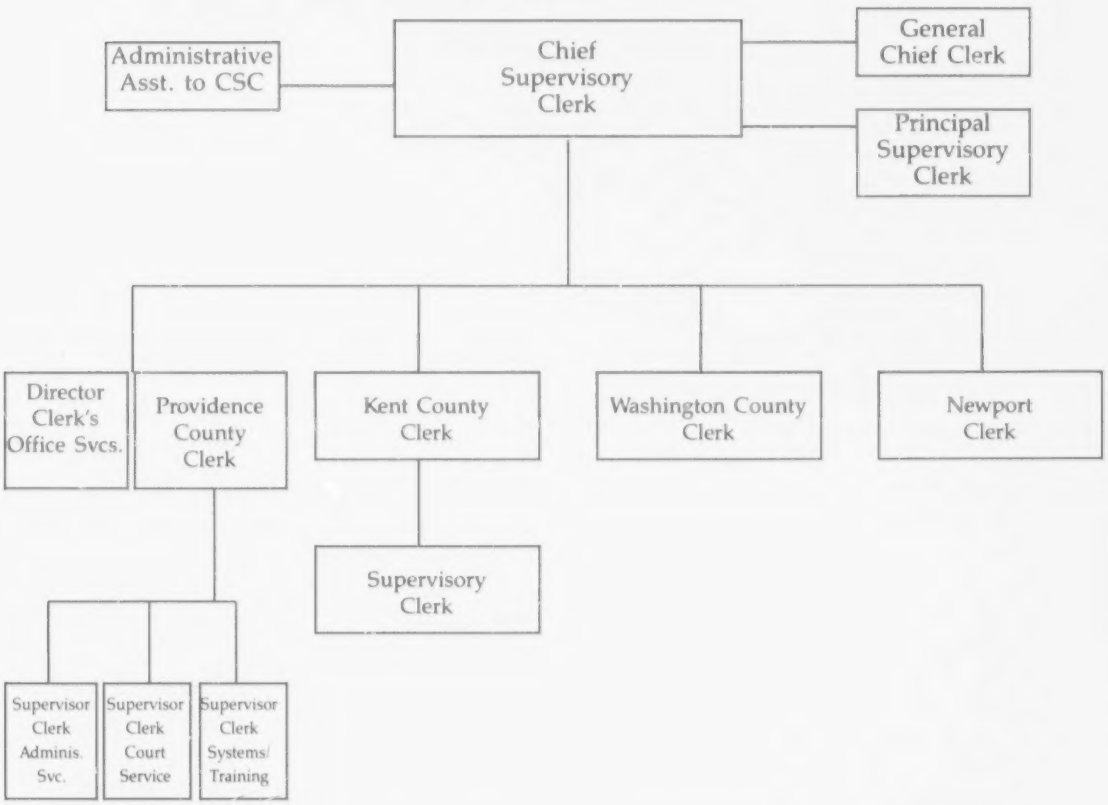
MAJOR REALIGNMENT APPROVED FOR SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

A realignment of the Clerk's Office has been set in motion as a result of an intra-court study taking place over the past three years. The planned realignment is considered necessary for more effective administering of the courts' records.

The plan will strengthen the ability of the Chief Supervisory Clerk to oversee general management, budget, personnel, and service delivery in order to ensure greater accountability. It will also provide support in three major service areas: administrative, court services and system training.

Three management positions have been created with clearly defined duties and responsibilities providing more direct supervision over clerk's office staff. A predictable benefit will be the enhancement of management response to day-to-day problems and staff operational concerns. Another major gain will be criminal case file quality control. Sufficient resources will now be available to address this very important function.

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE REALIGNMENT



TOTAL STAFF PROVIDENCE 38

TOTAL STAFF KENT 9

TOTAL STAFF WASHINGTON 6

TOTAL STAFF NEWPORT 5 (1990 - 6)

FORMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE CREATED

In October 1988 a Forms Management Subcommittee was appointed by State Court Administrator Matthew J. Smith. The committee includes representatives from each court and the Department of the Attorney General. The establishment of this committee is in keeping with RIGL 42-84-2 and has met regularly since its inception. Ms. Alice Macintosh, the Chief Supervisory Clerk of the Superior Court, serves as the chairperson. The objectives of the committee are to:

1. Consolidate forms for all courts and the Department of the Attorney General;
2. Create graphics uniformity for all forms;
3. Establish ease in completing forms;
4. Create a dating and numbering ID plan for ordering purposes.

A supplementary benefit in completing the review will be an anticipated financial savings in printing costs.

A complete review of court forms has not been undertaken in many years. Superior Court alone has over 100 forms; some are obsolete, others were made on a copying machine, many have identifying dates and departments missing, and the graphics vary greatly. In 1989 the primary focus of the subcommittee has been inter-court forms. Approximately a dozen forms including those used for bail and recognizance, stipulations, and notice of appeal, have been revised and printed.

Forms control subcommittee has representation from all courts, the Attorney General and state public records management office. Seated (l-r) Anthony Panichas, Pat Dankievitch, Susan McCalmont, John Barrett; standing: Alice Macintosh, Dennis Morgan and Cathy Nenart

GLOSSARY PROGRAM GIVES DATA ENTRY PERSONNEL A NEW CAPABILITY

A Word Processing Glossary Program developed by Ms. Mary Valletta, Supreme Court Opinion Processing Supervisor, is now in use in all Superior Courts except Newport County. The procedure, developed at the request of Chief Supervisory Clerk Alice Macintosh, allows data entry operators with no experience in word processing to produce the many varied criminal judgment forms used by the court. The process eliminates the need to type fill-ins, do cross-outs, and other such activities that were time consuming and potentially confusing. Also, form reprints and stockpiling are lessened by the new capability. After being successfully tested in Providence Superior Court, the glossary was approved for use and implementation in the outcounties by Presiding Justice Giannini.

Alice Macintosh
Chief Supervisory Clerk

Mary Valletta, Opinion Processing Supervisor

OLD RECORDS CULLED, STORED

A long overdue house cleaning of old files and records was accomplished in the outcounties during 1989. As an example of the need for this, records dating back to 1970 were being stored in Newport County. As a result of this project, all records over five years old have been labeled, boxed, and relocated to either the Judicial or Capitol Record Centers. The operation also involved computerizing the exact location of the stored material. Record scrutiny in Providence/Bristol County, the largest Superior Court office, is still in progress.

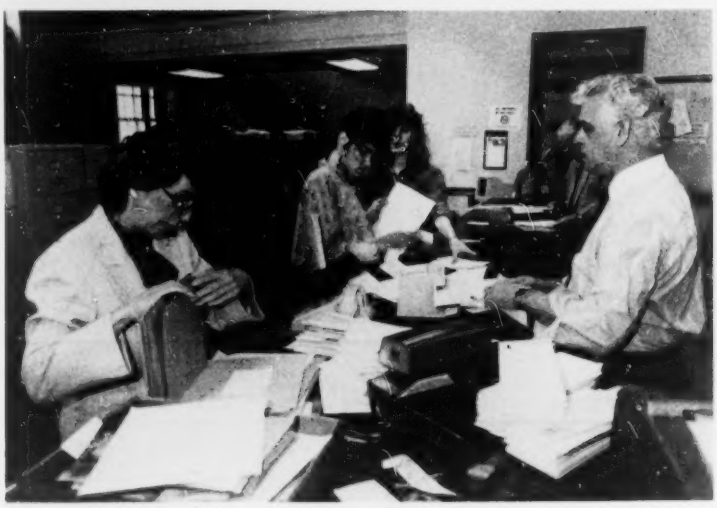
D'AMICO NAMED GENERAL CHIEF CLERK

John C. D'Amico

John C. D'Amico was appointed General Chief Clerk of Superior Court on January 1, 1989. A Cranston native and former state senator, Mr. D'Amico's responsibilities will be to assist the Chief Supervisory Clerk and all county clerks in the supervision, planning and coordinating of personnel in carrying out rules promulgated by the Superior Court. Areas of concern will be civil and criminal procedure and court record maintenance. The new General Chief Clerk has been an educator in the Warren school system for 20 years and is an Army Reserve Lt. Colonel.

Snapshots of the Superior Court Clerk's Office Present a Very Busy Place

Claudia Porrazzo enters data into the Court's automated criminal information system (PROMIS)



Mornings are a busy time as mail arrives and court filings are stamped and dated. (l-r) Mona Noonan, Ann Sherman, Tina Desa and Charles Garganese, Senior Deputy Clerk.

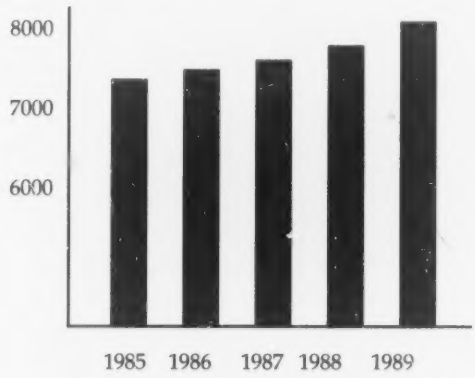
Chief Judge
Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.

FAMILY COURT

Administrator/Clerk
Earl J. Croft, Jr.

Despite fewer judicial resources this year, the Family Court has increased dispositions on the juvenile trial calendar courtwide and generally has kept pace with a rising juvenile caseload.

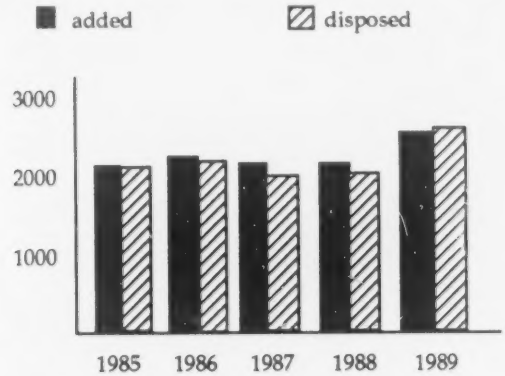
JUVENILE FILINGS



Courtwide, juvenile filings totaled 7,918 in 1989, which is an increase of 1,334 cases or 20% since 1985. However, the two major categories of juvenile cases, dependency/neglect/abuse and wayward/delinquent, have grown at an even higher rate. Four years ago (1986) dependency/neglect/abuse filings totalled 666, and this year they have almost reached 1,000 cases (filings for the year totalled 994), a growth rate of almost 50%. While not as dramatic a jump, wayward/delinquent filings have gone up by 24% since 1985. In 1985 the number filed in this category was 4,611, and in 1989 it was 5,710.

This has resulted in an increase in cases on the juvenile trial calendar everywhere except in Washington County. In Newport County the number added has climbed by 61% over the five-year period; in 1985 the number added was 215, and this year it has gone up to 346. In Providence the rate of increase for the same period has been almost 25%; five years ago the number added was 2,241, and this year it was 2,795, an increase of 554 cases. Kent County has had the smallest percentage increase, 11.7%; over the five-year period the juvenile trial caseload in Kent has risen from 615 to 687, an increase of 72.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR
CASES ADDED vs CASES DISPOSED

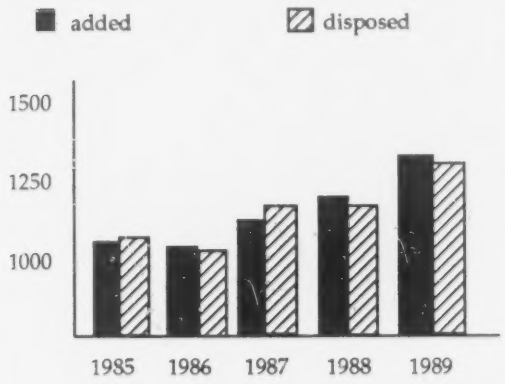


While elsewhere the juvenile calendar caseload has been rising since 1985, in Washington County the number has varied year to year following no pattern. In 1985 there were 306 cases added to the calendar in Washington County, and this year the number has been almost the same, 303. However, during the three years in between, the number varied from a low of 247 to a high of 330.

Along with an increase in calendared cases, there has been an increase in dispositions this year. In Providence the number disposed rose by 469, and dispositions exceeded the number added by 47; there were 2,795 cases added and 2,842 disposed. In Newport County the number disposed has gone up by 45 compared to 1988, and dispositions equalled the number added (346 cases). In Kent County there has been an increase in dispositions of 678 cases since last year, yet disposed cases still fell five short of the

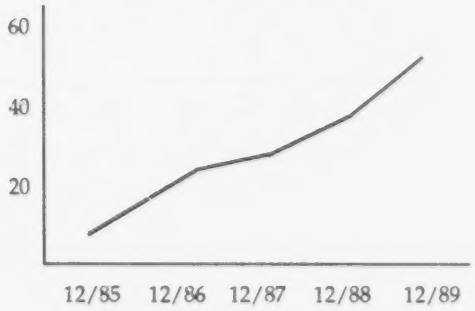
number added (687 cases were added compared to 682 disposed). There was also an increase of 25 in the number disposed in Washington County compared to 1988, but this did not close the gap between the number added and disposed either. The number added for the year was 288, and dispositions totaled 303.

OUT-COUNTIES
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR
CASES ADDED vs CASES DISPOSED



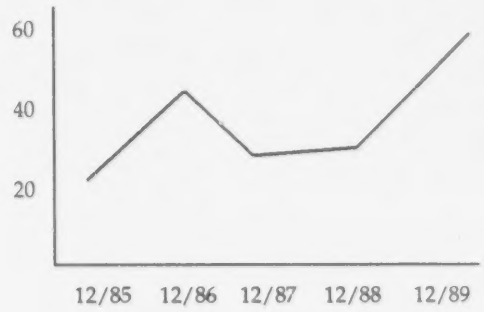
As a result of the number disposed on the juvenile calendar in Providence, the cases pending on the juvenile trial calendar were reduced from 376 at the end of 1988 (a five-year high) to 329. In Newport there was no change in the number pending, which stood at 41. In Kent the caseload rose by five from 91 to 96, and in Washington County it went up from 34 to 49. For Kent County the number pending (96) is the highest it has been since 1985.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
WAYWARD/DELINQUENT CASES
OVER 90 DAYS OLD



Despite higher juvenile dispositions in all counties, the wayward/delinquent cases over 90 days old have increased this year. In Providence County the number has risen since last year from 44 to 58, it has gone up from 8 to 13 in Newport County, it has jumped from 12 to 31 in Kent County, and in Washington County it has gone from 6 to 17.

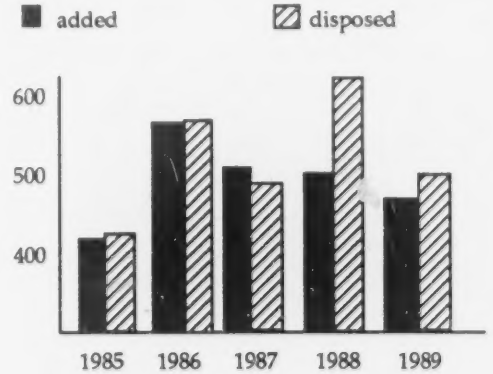
OUT-COUNTIES
WAYWARD/DELINQUENT CASES
OVER 90 DAYS OLD



Courtwide there has also been an extension in the average time to disposition for wayward/delinquent cases. A year ago the average time was 74.1 days, and this year it has increased to 84.4 days.

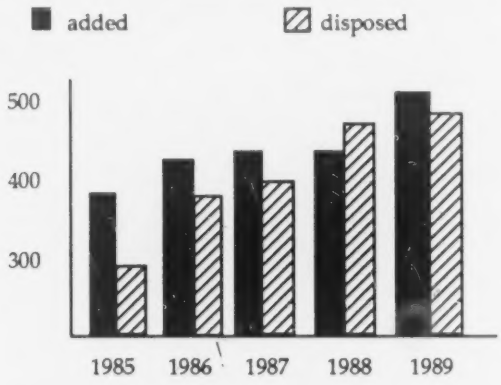
On the domestic side, divorce petitions have shown a slight decline this year, due to fewer filings in Newport and Washington Counties. Courtwide, divorce petitions totaled 4,941 for the year, which is 276 less than the number filed in 1988.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR
CASES ADDED vs CASES DISPOSED



However, the results on the contested calendar have not followed the same trend. Although there were fewer cases added to the contested calendar this year in Providence County compared to 1988, elsewhere the contested caseload has increased. In Kent County the number added to the contested calendar has gone up by 56, almost a 25% increase in a year's time; the number added in Kent was 268. In Washington County the number added rose by 33, also an increase of approximately 25%. Moreover, the contested caseload in Washington County has nearly doubled over the five-year period from 84 cases in 1985 to 165 in 1989. On the other hand, Newport County has seen a higher number of contested cases this year compared to 1988, but the number added in 1989 (90) is almost at the same level as 1985 (93).

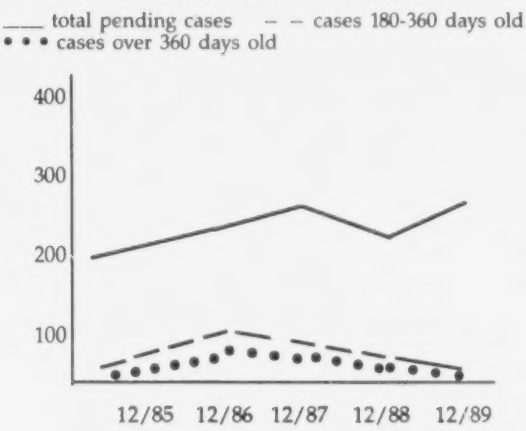
OUT-COUNTIES
CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR
CASES ADDED vs CASES DISPOSED



Even with a larger caseload, the court has managed to dispose of more cases than were added to the contested calendar in Providence, Newport, and Washington Counties. In Providence dispositions totalled 528, which was 48 more than the number added for the year (480); in Newport there were 104 cases disposed compared to 90 added; and in Washington County the number disposed was 173, eight more than were added (165).

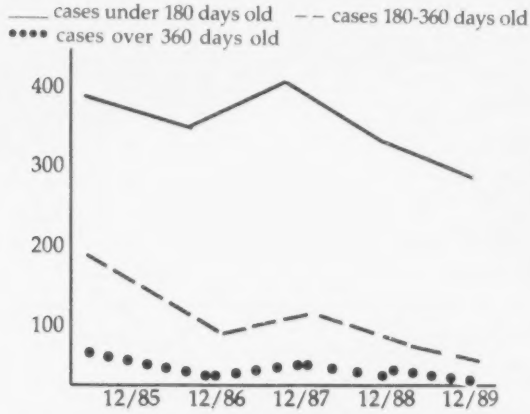
On the other hand, dispositions did not keep pace with the increase in contested cases in Kent County. There were 208 contested cases disposed this year and 268 added. As a result of this gap, the pending caseload rose by 60 in Kent, and the total pending as of December 31 was 148. Of this number, 36 cases (24%) were over 180 days old, and one case was over 360 days old.

OUT-COUNTIES
PENDING CONTESTED CASELOAD



However, the other counties showed a reduction in contested cases. In Providence County, for example, the contested caseload dropped to its lowest point in five years at the end of December. The number pending was 259, which was 150 cases less than were pending at the end of 1987. Also, the number over 180 days, 42 cases (16%), marked a five-year low point, as did the number of cases over 360 days old, five.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
PENDING CONTESTED CASELOAD



Newport had 28 contested cases pending, with 10 cases (36%) over 180 days old and none over 360 days. Washington County had 98 cases pending at the end of the year, and of this number, there were 32 cases (33%) over 180 days old and three cases over 360 days old.

JUVENILE AND FAMILY SERVICES HELP COURT HANDLE CASELOAD

The Juvenile Services Department and the Family Services Department continue to provide the Family Court with valuable alternatives in dealing with matters coming before it.

Intake supervisors within the Juvenile Services Department screen all wayward and delinquent petitions (except emergencies) filed with the court, and based on case screening criteria, interview certain youths and parents in an effort to dispose of cases without a formal court appearance. In handling these matters, the intake supervisors may establish restitution agreements and make referrals to counseling agencies and other community service agencies.

The Youth Diversionary Unit within this department serves as a field services unit. The unit works with youths referred to the court and their families and has the same flexibility in handling these cases as the intake supervisors. The field workers generally handle matters involving youth referred to the court for running away from home, disobeying parental rules, not attending school, or for other difficulties requiring on-going supervision.

In 1989 the Juvenile Services Department screened 4,378 wayward and delinquent petitions and handled approximately 40% of these petitions without a court hearing.

The Family Service Department provides a wide range of services to assist families and individuals experiencing difficulties. In addition to offering family and alcohol counseling this department provides investigations for child support, child custody, and other matters handled by the court. The department also provides a court-ordered mediation program to resolve specific issues in divorce cases and supervises child visitations in certain cases.

In 1989 the alcohol and family counselors received 215 new referrals and completed 882 investigations. Broken down by major category, these investigations included 280 complete custody studies, 413 support investigations, and 181 stepparent adoptions.

The department also continued the pilot program in court-ordered mediation which began in late 1988. This program provides a non-adversarial setting for resolving custody and visitation issues in divorce cases. It includes mediation sessions focusing on the positive reorganization of the family and stresses the on-going appropriate involvement of both parents in the lives of their children. The program received 45 referrals this year, which resulted in eighteen full agreements and two partial agreements; eight of the cases are still in mediation.

The demand for court-supervised visitation by this department increased dramatically and resulted in over 273 hours of supervision. To meet this demand, the department has recruited volunteers to assist with this service. Under the guidance of the court staff, college seniors are currently being used to supervise parental visits at the courthouse and prepare the necessary reports.

Also, the opening of the McGrath Judicial Complex has allowed the department to better serve clients in the southern part of the state; appointments for clients in this area are now scheduled in this facility.

CASA PROGRAM COMMEMORATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program commemorated its tenth anniversary with a reception at the State House. Governor Edward D. DiPrete hosted the celebration, and Chief Judge Jeremiah presided at the event honoring the dedicated staff and volunteers who assist dependent, neglected and abused children through the court process and child welfare system. A highlight of the program was a special presentation by Supreme Court Justice Florence Murray to Mr. Ted Glasson and Ms. Deborah Bostian for their services as volunteers.

The CASA program is a statewide effort which recruits and trains volunteer advocates (VCASA). The advocates conduct independent investigations into the factors leading to a child's removal from his/her home. The volunteers, with the assistance of the CASA staff, monitor the progress of a child's case through the Family Court process and the child welfare system.

In 1989 the program received cases involving 1,101 children. This represented an increase in referrals of over 30% from 1988. The Providence County office received 864 of these cases; Kent County, 89; Newport County, 75; and Washington County, 46. The program was able to close the cases of 324 children during the year and currently serves approximately 2,800 children.

The extensive efforts to recruit volunteers for the program resulted in 59 new volunteers being trained during the year. The recruitment efforts included public service announcements, participation in job fairs, recruitment through speaking engagements, and the placement of recently designed poster displays in numerous locations throughout the state. Due to the number of children assigned to the program, the extensive recruitment efforts still cannot provide the program with the number of volunteers needed to provide each child with a volunteer.

KATHLEEN A. VOCCOLA NAMED ASSOCIATE JUSTICE IN FAMILY COURT

Kathleen A. Voccola

On June 5, 1989, Kathleen A. Voccola was appointed an Associate Justice of the Family Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Justice Voccola had been in private practice since 1979 and served as the State Liquor Control Administrator since 1985. Justice Voccola also served as an assistant solicitor for the City of Cranston from 1979-1985.

Justice Voccoia is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island (1972) and received her law degree from Suffolk University (1977). She is a member of the Rhode Island Trial Judges Association and is currently serving as secretary of the association.

DEBRA E. DiSEGNA APPOINTED FAMILY COURT MASTER

Debra E. DiSegna

In October, Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr. appointed Debra E. DiSegna as a master in the Family Court. Master DiSegna will join General Master John J. O'Brien, Jr. in hearing child support collections and paternity cases.

Master DiSegna is a 1977 graduate of Rhode Island College and received her law degree from Suffolk University in 1982. She served as a prosecutor with the Department of Attorney General from 1983 to 1987. Prior to her appointment as master, she was in private practice and served as a hearing officer with the Department of Environmental Management. In addition, Master DiSegna has been an adjunct faculty member at Bryant College and Johnson and Wales University. She has also lectured at the State Police Academy, the Department of Health Breath Analysis School for law enforcement officials, and served on the United Way Task Force on Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Family Court child support collections increased by $2,138,498 in 1989. This represents a 12.7% increase in one year and an 87% increase over the last five years (1985-1989). The following chart depicts the amount collected during the last five years.

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

Year	Amount Collected
1985	$10,140,017
1986	11,957,881
1987	13,972,921
1988	16,837,133
1989	18,975,631

In 1989 the court initiated 2,885 child support cases and heard 7,465 cases. These matters were handled by General Master John J. O'Brien, Jr., a nationally recognized expert in the area of child support enforcement.

Due to the continuous increase in child support and paternity matters, the court has taken a number of steps to increase its ability to hear these cases and to streamline case processing and record keeping. In October Ms. Debra E. DiSegna was appointed as a master by Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr. to hear child support enforcement cases and paternity cases. The court now has two masters to hear these matters.

The court is also in the final stages of implementing a state-of-the-art automated system for the collections unit. This system will automate many of the office functions that are currently handled manually. The system will assist in record keeping, produce court calendars, and provide the court with an abundance of statistics to assist in managing the caseload. The automated system is a cooperative effort with the Department of Human Services and has been funded with a federal grant. The system should be fully operational by the fall of 1990.

With the increased activity in this area and the installation of the automated system, the operation has outgrown its present office space on the second floor of the Garrahy Judicial Complex. The accounting section of the office will move to the third floor, and the reciprocal unit will occupy the entire office space on the second floor. This should provide improved working conditions for the staff and continued easy access for the general public. This move should be completed in the spring of 1990.

The federal government supports the efforts of jurisdictions to pursue the enforcement of child support, and in 1989 the federal government reimbursed Rhode Island for approximately 67% of the expenses directly related to collection and enforcement. The amount received was $475,946. Items that qualify as direct costs include salaries, fringe benefits, telephone charges, and computer costs.

In addition to the reimbursement for direct costs, the court receives federal reimbursement for various indirect costs that qualify. In 1989 the court received an additional $145,146 for these expenses. The total received from the federal government to pursue child support matters was $621,092.

DISTRICT COURT

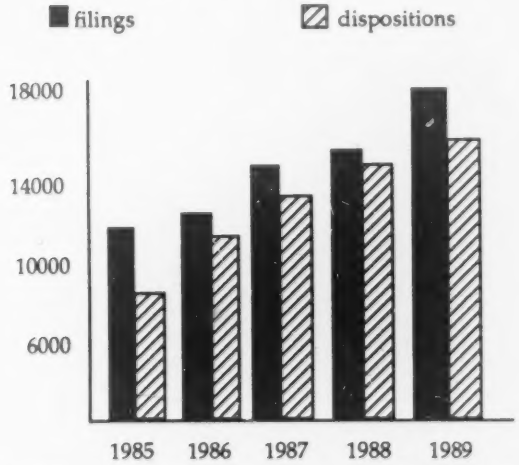
Chief Judge
Albert E. DeRobbio

Administrator
Joseph P. Ippolito, Esq.

The workload of the District Court continued to expand in 1989. Courtwide the number of filings this year was 93,514, up ten percent from 1988.

The category showing the most growth has been small claims. Small claims totaled 18,299 for the year, which is a 22.5% jump from last year and compared to five years ago this category has increased by 52.5%. The sixth lead the divisions with the largest number of small claims filed this year, 4,083; the eighth was close behind with 3,676 cases, followed by the third division with 3,355 filings.

SMALL CLAIMS
FILINGS vs DISPOSITIONS



Second to small claims, the category which has increased the most has been misdemeanors. There were 43,181 misdemeanors filed for the year (this count is based on number of charges, not cases). This was 8.8% more than last year's total (39,761), and compared to five years ago this category has gone up by 33%.

The increase in misdemeanors varied division to division, and two divisions, the fifth and sixth, even had lower filings in this category than in 1988. In the fifth division the number filed was 4,270, which was 71 less than a year ago, and in the sixth division misdemeanor filings for the year totaled 7,146, 432 less than in 1988.

On the other hand, the third division had the largest misdemeanor caseload for the second year in a row. Misdemeanor filings in this division totaled 9,355, which was a 15.5% increase compared to 1988. This year the fourth division moved to second place with 7,280 misdemeanors filed (this was a 23% hike from 1988), and the sixth division dropped to third place with 7,146 filings. The five other divisions also experienced higher misdemeanor filings this year as the chart below indicates.

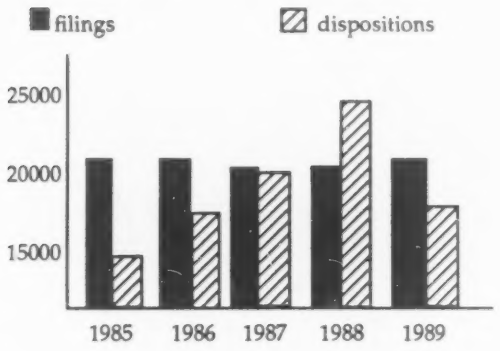
MISDEMEANORS AND VIOLATIONS
FILINGS BY DIVISION

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
1st	1196	1220	1340	1687	1813
2nd	3405	3690	3903	4527	4888
3rd	5899	6164	6746	8101	9355
4th	4798	4840	5322	5923	7280
5th	3624	3789	3737	4341	4270
6th	6693	6735	6760	7507	7146
7th	2779	2804	2813	3053	3798
8th	4042	4097	4287	4532	4631

Civil filings also showed an increase this year, which was a departure from recent trends. In three of the four previous years this category has decreased, primarily due to a change in jurisdiction for small claims. However, in 1989 civil filings totaled 20,772, which was an increase of 1,557 over last year.

As in the past, approximately 44% of all regular civil filings were in the sixth division. This division had 9,134 civil matters filed for the year.

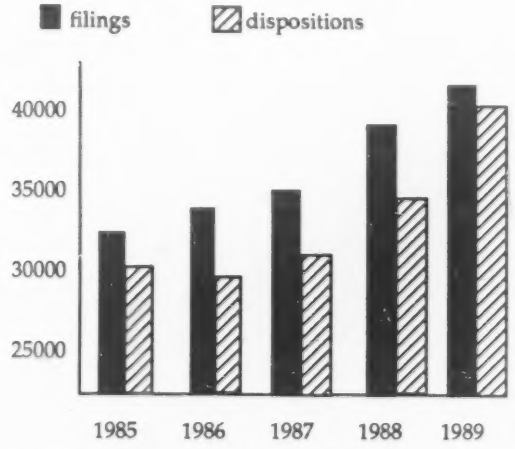
REGULAR CIVIL CASES
FILINGS vs DISPOSITIONS



Two other categories, agency appeals and domestic abuse complaints, also had higher filings this year. Agency appeals were lower in both 1987 and 1988; in 1988 there were 259 agency appeals filed, which was the lowest number since appeals were transferred to the District Court. However, the number filed this year (442) is closer to what filings of this type were averaging prior to 1987.

Domestic abuse complaints also rose by 103 cases this year, after staying at the same level in 1987 and 1988. In the past two years the number filed has been 533 and 536, and this year it has risen to 639.

MISDEMEANORS AND VIOLATIONS
FILINGS vs DISPOSITIONS



The single category which has not increased has been felony filings. Felonies have remained fairly constant now for three years, after increasing by 22% between 1986 and 1987. The total filed in 1989 was 10,181 (again this count is based on charges and not cases). The number filed last year was 10,422, and two years ago it was 10,071.

Even with record filings and fewer judicial resources (two judges were assigned to Superior Court and one was out due to illness), the District Court has increased misdemeanor dispositions by 18% and achieved a disposition rate of almost 96%. The number disposed rose from 34,918 last year to 41,292 in 1989.

Automated statistics on pending cases are not available for the fifth and sixth divisions, but the number of misdemeanors pending over 60 days in the other six divisions totaled 269 at the end of year (a year ago this number was 428 for all eight divisions).

Two of the divisions have accumulated a larger number of older cases, the second and the eighth. There were 63 cases pending over 60 days in the second division and 90 cases in this age category pending in the eighth division.

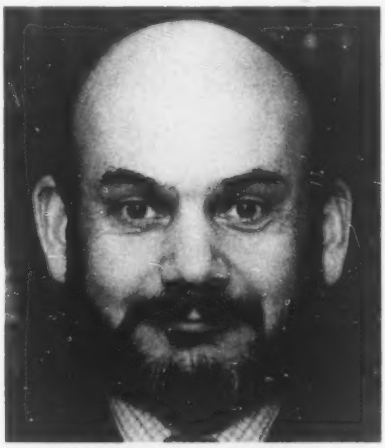
Of the 269 cases over 60 days old, there were 46 cases or 17% which have aged beyond six months. Twelve of these cases were in the first division, another 12 were in the second division, and 14 were in the fourth division.

On the civil side, small claims dispositions showed a slight increase for the year. There were 15,045 small claims disposed, which was 194 more than in 1988. However, the disposition rate has dropped. Last year the District Court succeeded in disposing of 99.2% of small claims filings, principally due to new procedures which were introduced to streamline small claims. However, this year with the same procedures in place, the disposition rate has fallen to 82.2%.

Dispositions for regular civil matters have dropped from last year's record number of 24,770; the number disposed this year was 17,151. Last year's record dispositions were the result of a program initiated to schedule and dispose of all civil matters pending over a year. This program did not continue in 1989, but plans are underway to resume it in 1990.

GILBERT V. INDEGLIA APPOINTED AS DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

On June 16, 1989 State Representative Gilbert V. Indeglia, was sworn in by Governor DiPrete as a District Court judge. Judge Indeglia filled the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Paul J. DelNero.



Judge Gilbert V. Indeglia

Judge Indeglia graduated from Boston College in 1963 and received his law degree with honors from the University of Michigan Law School in 1966. Judge Indeglia served as South Kingstown's assistant solicitor from 1971 to 1973. He was elected to the Town Council in 1977 and served as president of the council from 1981-1984. In 1984 he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives and served until his appointment to the District Court bench. While in the House, Judge Indeglia served as a Deputy Minority Leader and was a member of the House Judiciary Committee and the Joint Committee on the Environment.

LALIBERTE CONFERENCE ROOM IS DEDICATED

To honor the late Chief Judge of the District Court, Honorable Henry E. Laliberte, the District Court conference room in the Garrahy Judicial Complex was named in his memory. The dedication ceremony took place on December 4, 1989 with family members, judges, court employees, and friends present to honor this outstanding public servant.

Chief Judge Laliberte was born in Providence on May 24, 1919. He graduated from Central High School and Providence College. He received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in 1950 and was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar that same year. Prior to being appointed Chief Judge in 1969, he was in private practice, served in local and state government, and was on numerous government and civic committees.

District Court Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio speaks to dignitaries and guests at the Laliberte Conference Room dedication.

The Henry E. Laliberte Conference Room also honors those who have served as District Court judges. Each judge's picture has been placed in the conference room with the date the judge was appointed. Chief Judge DeRobbio, in dedicating the conference room, noted, "The people of Rhode Island can be justly proud of these judges, especially Chief Judge Laliberte, a kind and good man who gave many years of service and has contributed to the positive growth and appreciation of our legal system."

JOAN GODFREY NAMED AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

District Court Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio reviews a proposal from new assistant administrator Joan M. Godfrey

Joan M. Godfrey of Warwick was appointed Assistant Administrator of the District Court by Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio on April 10, 1989.

Ms. Godfrey is a 1988 Summa Cum Laude graduate of Roger Williams College where she majored in paralegal studies and minored in business administration. Prior to her appointment to the District Court, Ms. Godfrey was a court reporter in Superior Court for 18½ years.

A Day In the Life of the New McGrath Judicial Complex

APPENDICES

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1989 JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT

THOMAS F. FAY, Chief Justice
THOMAS F. KELLEHER, Associate Justice
JOSEPH R. WEISBERGER, Associate Justice
FLORENCE K. MURRAY, Associate Justice
DONALD F. SHEA, Associate Justice

SUPERIOR COURT

ANTHONY A. GIANNINI, Presiding Justice
JOHN E. ORTON, III, Associate Justice
THOMAS H. NEEDHAM, Associate Justice
JOHN P. BOURCIER, Associate Justice
JOSEPH F. RODGERS, JR., Associate Justice
CORINNE P. GRANDE, Associate Justice
DOMINIC F. CRESTO, Associate Justice
ANTONIO S. ALMEIDA, Associate Justice
PAUL P. PEDERZANI, JR., Associate Justice
THOMAS J. CALDARONE, JR., Associate Justice
ALICE BRIDGET GIBNEY, Associate Justice
RICHARD J. ISRAEL, Associate Justice
AMERICO CAMPANELLA, Associate Justice
ROBERT D. KRAUSE, Associate Justice
MELANIE WILK FAMIGLIETTI, Associate Justice
VINCENT A. RAGOSTA, Associate Justice
JOHN F. SHEEHAN, Associate Justice
RONALD R. GAGNON, Associate Justice
HENRY GEMMA, JR., Associate Justice
MARK A. PFEIFFER, Associate Justice
ANTHONY CARNEVALE, JR., Special Master

FAMILY COURT

JEREMIAH S. JEREMIAH, JR., Chief Judge
CARMINE R. DiPETRILLO, Associate Justice
JOHN K. NAJARIAN, Associate Justice
ROBERT G. CROUCHLEY, Associate Justice
JOSEPH S. GENDRON, Associate Justice
HAIGANUSH R. BEDROSIAN, Associate Justice
PAMELA M. MACKTAZ, Associate Justice
RAYMOND E. SHAWCROSS, Associate Justice
MICHAEL B. FORTE, Associate Justice
KATHLEEN A. VOCCOLA, Associate Justice
JOHN J. O'BRIEN, JR., General Master
DEBRA E. DiSEGNA, Master

DISTRICT COURT

ALBERT E. DeROBBIO, Chief Judge
ANTHONY J. DENNIS, Associate Judge
VICTOR J. BERETTA, Associate Judge
JOHN J. CAPPELLI, Associate Judge
MICHAEL A. HIGGINS, Associate Judge
ALTON W. WILEY, Associate Judge
FRANCIS J. DARIGAN, JR., Associate Judge
ROBERT K. PIRRAGLIA, Associate Judge
ANTONIO SAOBENTO, JR., Associate Judge
PATRICIA D. MOORE, Associate Judge
WILLIAM T. HENRY, Associate Judge
O. ROGERIEE THOMPSON, Associate Judge
GILBERT V. INDEGLIA, Associate Judge

1989 COURT DIRECTORY
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

SUPREME COURT
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI

Matthew J. Smith, Administrator, Clerk
State Courts 277-3263
Ronald A. Tutalo, Administrative
Asst. to Chief Justice 277-3073
Gail Higgins Fogarty
General Counsel 277-3266
Brian B. Burns, Chief Deputy
Clerk/Director of Bar Admissions 277-3272
Kendall F. Svengalis, State
Law Librarian 277-3275
Martha Newcomb, Chief,
Appellate Screening 277-3297
Nina M. Ricci
Law Clerk Pool 277-6536

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Robert C. Harrall, Deputy
Administrator, State Courts 277-3266
Joseph D. Butler, Associate
Administrator, State Courts 277-3266
Edward J. Plunkett, Jr., Executive Director,
Rhode Island Judicial Systems &
Sciences (RIJSS) 277-3358
James J. Roberts, Director,
Office of Public Information 277-3266
Susan W. McCalmont, Assistant
Administrator for Policy and
Programs 277-2500
Robert E. Johnson, Assistant
Administrator for Facilities and
Operations 277-2600
William A. Melone, Assistant Administrator
for Human Resources 277-2700
Holly Hitchcock, Director,
Court Education 277-2500
Linda D. Bonaccorsi, Chief,
Employee Relations 277-2700
Frank G. Eldredge, Jr.
Manager, Judicial Revenue 277-2084
Robert H. Montecalvo
EEO/Legislative Liaison 277-2600
Roger Valois, Supervisor,
Environmental Systems 277-3269
Robert J. Melucci
State Coordinator
Crime Victim Compensation Program 277-2500
Victim Restitution Unit 277-2923

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

1025 Fleet National Bank
Providence, RI 02903
Girard R. Visconti, Chairman 331-3800

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
N. Jameson Chace, Chairman
Frank A. Carter, Jr. 277-3270
Disciplinary Counsel
Mary M. Lisi, Deputy 277-3270
Disciplinary Counsel

SUPERIOR COURT

250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI
William J. McAtee, Administrator 277-3215
Alice M. Macintosh, Chief
Supervisory Clerk 277-2622
Richard J. Cedor, Clerk 277-3220
Providence and Bristol Counties
John C. D'Amico
General Chief Clerk 277-3339
Alfred Travers, Jr.
Jury Commissioner 277-3245
Evelyn A. Keene, Administrator for
Management and Finance 277-3215
Kathleen A. Maher, Assistant
Administrator for Planning and
Case Flow Management 277-3288
Bonnie L. Williamson,
Manager of Calendar Services 277-3602
Thomas P. McGann, Security
& Operations Manager 277-3292
Louis M. Cioci, Arbitration
Program Administrator 277-6147

KENT COUNTY

Ernest W. Reposa, Clerk 822-1311
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893
Raymond D. Gallogly, Associate
Jury Commissioner 822-0400
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893
Thomas G. Healey, Manager of
Calendar Services (out-counties) 277-6645
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Diane L. Seemann, Clerk 782-4121
J. Howard McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

NEWPORT COUNTY

Glenn E. Nippert, Clerk 846-5556
Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

FAMILY COURT

1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI

Earl J. Croft, Jr., Administrator/ Clerk	277-3334
Anthony T. Panichas, Deputy Administrator/Clerk	277-3331
Dolores M. Murphy, Chief Intake Supervisor (Juvenile)	277-3345
Barbara Rogers, Chief Family Counselor	277-3504
William Aliferakis, Supervising Clerk of Collections	277-3356
John Colafrancesco, Jr., Supervisory Accountant	277-3300
Mary A. McKenna, Fiscal Officer	277-6684
F. Charles Haigh, Jr., Chief Deputy Clerk (Domestic Relations)	277-3340
Janet Diano, Principal Deputy Clerk (Juvenile)	277-3352
Francis B. Brown, CASA/GAL Director	277-6863

KENT COUNTY

Joyce C. Dube, Supervisory Deputy Clerk	822-1600

222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

NEWPORT COUNTY

Ellen F. Burdett, Supervisory Deputy Clerk	847-1158

Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Frank P. DeMarco, Supervisory Deputy Clerk	782-4111

J. Howard McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

DISTRICT COURT

Headquarters
Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI 02903

Joseph P. Ippolito, Esq. Administrator	277-6777
Patricia I. Dankievitch, Deputy Administrator	277-6960
Joan M. Godfrey Assistant Administrator	277-6960
Jerome Smith, Chief Clerk	277-6703
Joseph Senerchia, Administrative Clerk	277-6777

FIRST DIVISION

Cynthia C. Clegg, Supervising Deputy Clerk/Training Officer	245-7977

516 Main Street, Warren, RI 02840

SECOND DIVISION

Mary Alice Stender, Supervising Deputy Clerk	846-6500

Washington Square, Newport, RI 02804

THIRD DIVISION

James A. Signorelli, Chief Supervising Deputy Clerk	822-1771

222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

FOURTH DIVISION

Rosemary T. Cantley, Supervising Deputy Clerk	782-4131

J. Howard McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

FIFTH DIVISION

Alice Albuquerque, Supervising Deputy Clerk	722-1024

145 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02865

SIXTH DIVISION

Kevin M. Spina, Principal Deputy Clerk	277-6710

One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

SEVENTH DIVISION

Donald L. St. Pierre, Supervising Deputy Clerk	762-2700

24 Front Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895

EIGHTH DIVISION

Raymond E. Ricci, Supervising Deputy Clerk	944-5550

275 Atwood Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

COMPENDIUM OF COURT BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Disciplinary Board
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3270
(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 42-4)

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island has nine (9) members. They are appointed by the Supreme Court and must be members of the bar. The board reviews all complaints of professional misconduct by attorneys, authorizes the filing of formal charges, and makes findings and recommendations for discipline. The board may petition the Supreme Court to place an attorney on an inactive status in cases where the attorney is incapacitated from continuing the practice of law by mental or physical infirmity. The board may also call respondent-attorneys to appear before the board for the purpose of clarifying or explaining provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Members

N. Jameson Chace, Chair
Edward C. Clifton
John E. McCann, III
Marilyn Shannon McConaghy
Marifrances K. McGinn
George Salem
Ralph P. Semonoff
Jeffrey J. Teitz
Carol Zangari
Frank A. Carter, Jr. Disciplinary Counsel
Mary M. Lisi, Deputy Disciplinary Counsel

Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-6036
(Pursuant to RIGL 11-27-19)

The Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee is empowered to investigate alleged instances of unauthorized individuals practicing law. In conjunction with the Department of the Attorney General, this committee prosecutes criminal violations under the practice of law chapter of the General Laws. The seven committee members are appointed by the Supreme Court and must be members of the Rhode Island bar.

Members

Avram Cohen, Chair
Milton L. Isserlis
Joseph T. Little
Richard A. Boren
Paul K. Sprague
Robert V. Rossi
Mitchell S. Riffkin

Ethics Advisory Panel
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3272
(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 47)

The Ethics Advisory Panel was established by order of the Supreme Court in December 1986. The panel's purpose is to provide Rhode Island attorneys with confidential advice concerning prospective conduct as an attorney under the Rules of Professional Conduct. Panel advice is protective in nature; there is no requirement that an attorney abide by a panel opinion, but if an attorney does abide by the panel's written opinion, that attorney will be fully protected from any subsequent charge of impropriety.

Panel opinions are edited to remove all identifying references and are published in this form in the *Rhode Island Bar Journal* and the *Rhode Island Lawyer's Weekly*. The State Law Library maintains a set of edited panel opinions and a topical index. The ABA/BNA Manual on Professional Conduct also indexes and publishes summaries of panel opinion digests.

Five Rhode Island attorneys are appointed by the Supreme Court to serve one or two-year terms as a member of the panel.

Members

Robert D. Kilmarx, Chair
Lester H. Salter, Vice Chair
Rae B. Condon, Secretary
Scott K. Keefer
Matthew F. Callaghan
Joan C. Bohl, Counsel to the Panel

Committee on Character and Fitness
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3272
(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 34.1)

The Committee on Character and Fitness was established by the Supreme Court on March 17, 1988. It is charged with establishing the moral character and fitness of each applicant involving financial, criminal, and legal information provided by the applicant. Applicants are also individually interviewed by a committee member.

Following the interview, the committee member may refer an applicant to the full committee for a hearing if he/she feels that such a review is warranted. The committee, after completion of its review, makes a recommendation to the Supreme Court as to whether an applicant should be admitted to the bar or be allowed to take the bar examination. Based on this recommendation, the court may either grant the applicant's request or

require the applicant to show cause why the court should grant the request.

The committee has seven members who are appointed by the Supreme Court for three year terms.

Members

Bruce Q. Morin, Chair
Patricia A. Buckley — Ralph P. Semonoff
Michael S. Schwartz — Alfred Factor
Edward C. Parker — Brian B. Burns
Beverly A. Clark, Executive Secretary
Gail Higgins Fogarty, Staff Attorney
Judy S. Robbins, Staff Attorney
Edward Gorman, Investigator
William F. Hobson, Investigator

Board of Bar Examiners
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Stret, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3272
(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 33.38)

The Board of Bar Examiners is charged with examining applicants on their knowledge of the law.

The bar examination is given twice a year, the last Wednesday and Thursday in the months of February and July. Applicants who take the examination must be graduates of an American Bar Association approved and accredited law school. The exam consists of a Multistate Bar exam on the first day and essay questions on the second day. Additionally, an applicant must have received a scaled score of 80 on the Multistate Professional Responsibility exam prior to sitting for an examination.

The board membership includes seven attorneys appointed by the Supreme Court. Members serve a term of five years. Their responsibilities include proctoring the bar examination, designing essay questions for the examination, and scoring the applicant responses to the questions. Attorney John F. Dolan is the current chairman of the board.

Members

John F. Dolan, Chair
Louise Durfee — Robert Pitassi
Alfred Factor — Frank Williams
Joseph A. Kelly — William A. Curran
Brian B. Burns, Administrator
Beverly A. Clark, Secretary

Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-2374
(Pursuant to RIGL 8-16-1)

The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline was created in 1974 and is empowered to investigate complaints against judges of the state court system, worker's compensation, and the administrative adjudication division. The commission may issue a private reprimand or recommend a judge's suspension, retirement, or removal from office to the Supreme Court.

The members of this commission are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for a three year term.

Members

Honorable Edward V. Healey, Jr., Chair
Honorable Corinne P. Grande
Honorable Carmine R. DiPetrillo
Honorable Michael A. Higgins
William G. Gilroy
Representative Joseph DeAngelis
Representative Gaetano D. Parella
Nancy Parsons Doolittle — Richard F. Staples
Richard F. Staples — Bradley L. Steere
James P. Flynn — Senator David P. Kerins
Eileen Gleeson — Deborah A. Smith

Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-2700
(Pursuant to Canon 31, Supreme Court Rule 48)

The Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics was created in 1983 when the Supreme Court amended Canon 31 of Supreme Court Rule 48, the Canons of Judicial Ethics. As specified in the amendment, the Committee's membership is drawn from the several state courts, and its role is "to assist judges in complying with the ... canons," by responding to requests for opinions.

The committee was created at the same time the court expanded Canon 31 to specify restrictions on judicial participation in testimonials and fundraising. Canon 31(D) gives the committee detailed criteria for deciding the propriety of judges' involvement in these events.

Advisory opinions are often sought to confirm if the value of the plaque or other token of recognition being offered to a judge at an event is within the guidelines of the canons. These opinions also often help judges communicate the restrictions imposed by the canons to groups requesting their help in worthy causes. The committee can also respond to requests for advice on other canons.

Committee members are appointed to staggered two-year terms. The Supreme Court usually appoints members for a single term only so that both the burden and experience of this duty is shared widely by members of the judiciary.

Members:

Assoc. Justice Corinne Grande, Superior Court, Chair
Associate Justice John Oton III, Superior Court
Associate Justice Pamela Macktaz, Family Court
Associate Judge Alton Wiley, District Court
Associate Judge Antonio SaoBento, Jr., District Court

CASELOAD STATISTICS

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

APPELLATE CASEFLOW

Case Types	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
CRIMINAL					
Added	84	107	108	86	98
Disposed	84	71	120	99	97
Pending	60	102	92	76	79
CIVIL					
Added	283	237	215	295	307
Disposed	339	379	282	275	255
Pending	385	266	205	227	280
CERTIORARI					
Added	177	155	169	173	163
Disposed	162	172	181	167	151
Pending	117	103	92	99	111
OTHER					
Added	47	51	50	46	67
Disposed	43	49	60	41	63
Pending	15	16	4	8	14
ALL CASES					
Added	591	550	542	600	635
Disposed	628	671	643	582	566
Pending	577	487	393	410	484

DISPOSITION DETAIL

MANNER AND STAGE OF DISPOSITION	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
BEFORE ARGUMENT					
Withdrawn	95	77	71	75	72
Dismissed	86	81	80	91	91
Petition Granted	5	3	6	8	4
Petition Denied	109	141	116	114	96
Other	5	4	10	3	9
TOTAL	300	306	283	291	272
AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MOTION CALENDAR					
Withdrawn	*	2	0	0	1
Affirmed	107	147	134	101	100
Modified	*	0	0	0	0
Reversed	12	12	16	16	16
16G Affirmed	*	2	0	0	0
Other	16	25	22	34	32
TOTAL	135	188	172	151	149
AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MERITS					
Withdrawn	1	2	1	2	2
Affirmed	121	129	120	93	98
Modified	15	10	6	14	7
Reversed	56	36	54	31	38
Other	*	0	*	*	0
TOTAL	193	177	181	140	145
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	628	671	643	582	566
AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION	13.7 mos.	13.03 mos.	11.6 mos.	8 8 mos.	8.1 mos.
MEDIAN TIME TO DISPOSITION	9.4 mos.	10.3 mos.	9.6 mos.	6.1 mos.	6.5 mos.

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

Felonies	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	3,195	3,128	3,020	5,142	5,049
Cases Disposed	2,671	3,181	3,102	4,192	5,227
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+524	−53	−82	+950	−178
Total Pending Cases	2,237	1,988	1,643	2,407	1,877
Cases Over 180 Days Old	1,418	1,275	1,171	1,487	1,160
% Over 180 Days Old	(63.4%)	(64.1%)	(71.3%)	(61.7%)	(61.8%)
KENT					
Cases Filed	909	613	622	768	757
Cases Disposed	841	677	694	679	715
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+68	−64	−72	+89	+42
Total Pending Cases	270	201	92	210	225
Cases Over 180 Days Old	106	105	31	27	69
% Over 180 Days Old	(39.2%)	(52.2%)	(33.76)	(12.9%)	(30.7%)
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	370	346	397	453	487
Cases Disposed	273	221	311	376	419
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+97	+125	+86	+77	+68
Total Pending Cases	135	160	196	196	244
Cases Over 180 Days Old	52	77	94	85	105
% Over 180 Days Old	(38.5%)	(48.1%)	(48.0%)	(43.4%)	(43%)
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	306	273	239	322	447
Cases Disposed	289	297	185	241	215
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+17	−24	+54	+81	+232
Total Pending Cases	96	130	138	196	325
Cases Over 180 Days Old	18	62	96	99	194
% Over 180 Days Old	(18.7%)	(47.6%)	(69.6%)	(50.5%)	(59.7%)
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	4,780	4,360	4,278	6,685	6,740
Cases Disposed	4,074	4,376	4,292	5,488	6,576
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+706	−16	−14	+1,197	+164
Total Pending Cases	2,738	2,479	2,069	3,009	2,671
Cases Over 180 Days Old	1,594	1,519	1,392	1,698	1,528
% Over 180 Days Old	(58.2%)	(61.2%)	(67.3%)	(56.4%)	(57.2%)

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

MANNER OF DISPOSITION

Felonies	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Plea	2,120	2,532	2,447	3,515	4,498
Filed			72	48	44
Dismissal	436	552	482	547	599
Trial	115	97	97	74	86
Other			4	8	0
Total	2,671	3,181	3,102	4,192	5,227
KENT					
Plea	761	494	599	597	668
Filed			5	4	2
Dismissal	70	148	60	44	31
Trial	10	35	29	27	14
Other			1	7	0
Total	841	677	694	679	715
WASHINGTON					
Plea	242	178	276	326	342
Filed			2	11	4
Dismissal	26	33	29	28	52
Trial	5	10	2	8	21
Other			2	3	0
Total	273	221	311	376	419
NEWPORT					
Plea	231	264	151	196	181
Filed			2	3	1
Dismissal	49	28	22	26	28
Trial	9	5	9	16	5
Other			1	0	0
Total	289	297	185	241	215
STATEWIDE					
Plea	3,354	3,468	3,473	4,634	5,689
Filed			81	66	51
Dismissal	581	761	593	645	710
Trial	139	147	137	125	126
Other			8	18	0
Total	4,074	4,376	4,292	5,488	6,576

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW (cont.)

Misdemeanors	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	486	767	471	866	566
Cases Disposed	407	601	508	553	725
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+79	+166	−37	®313	−159
Total Pending Cases	477	478	427	524	507
Cases Over 180 Days Old	340	209	252	152	416
% Cases Over 180 Days Old	(71.3%)	(43.7%)	(59%)	(29%)	(82%)
KENT					
Cases Filed	255	176	192	136	162
Cases Disposed	177	267	223	137	157
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+78	−91	−31	−1	+5
Total Pending Cases	97	57	24	22	38
Cases Over 180 Days Old	50	19	2	1	12
% Over 180 Days Old	(51.5%)	(33.3%)	(8.3%)	(4.5%)	(31.6%)
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	96	158	120	107	77
Cases Disposed	80	77	107	96	84
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+16	+81	+13	+11	−7
Total Pending Cases	21	87	81	51	32
Cases Over 180 Days Old	8	30	32	34	18
% Over 180 Days Old	(38.1%)	(34.4%)	(39.5%)	(66.6%)	(56.2%)
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	93	61	83	69	62
Cases Disposed	167	82	81	92	42
Caseload Increase/Decrease	−74	−21	+2	−23	+20
Total Pending Cases	43	49	92	69	109
Cases Over 180 Days Old	4	9	31	32	86
% Over 180 Days Old	(9.3%)	(18.3%)	(33.7%)	(46.3%)	(78.9%)
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	930	1,162	866	1,178	867
Cases Disposed	831	1,028	919	878	1,008
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+99	+134	−53	®300	−141
Total Pending Cases	638	671	468	666	686
Cases Over 180 Days Old	402	267	257	219	532
% Over 180 Days Old	(63%)	(39.7%)	(55.0%)	(32.9%)	(77.5%)

MANNER OF DISPOSITION (cont.)

Misdemeanors	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Plea	303	439	259	303	511
Filed			51	59	56
Dismissal	96	127	159	147	146
Trial	8	35	18	11	12
Other			21	33	0
Total	407	601	508	553	725
KENT					
Plea	129	187	152	93	120
Filed			14	8	8
Dismissal	45	68	24	15	25
Trial	3	13	14	17	4
Other			19	4	0
Total	177	268	223	137	157
WASHINGTON					
Plea	54	54	66	70	41
Filed			7	4	4
Dismissal	24	20	19	15	31
Trial	2	3	3	0	8
Other			12	7	0
Total	80	77	107	96	84
NEWPORT					
Plea	152	52	49	56	27
Filed			7	6	4
Dismissal	13	25	16	27	11
Trial	2	5	7	1	0
Other			2	2	0
Total	167	82	81	92	42
STATEWIDE					
Plea	638	732	526	522	699
Filed			79	77	72
Dismissal	178	240	218	204	213
Trial	15	56	42	29	24
Other			54	46	0
Total	831	1,028	919	878	1,008

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CIVIL CASEFLOW

CIVIL ACTIONS	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Total Cases Filed	5,653	5,598	5,751	6,128	7,090
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,196	2,056	1,883	1,857	1,732
Cases Disposed	1,653	1,665	2,014	2,113	1,756
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+543	+391	−131	−256	−24
Pending at Year End	5,222	5,605	5,464	5,090	5,066
KENT					
Total Cases Filed	963	1,154	1,375	1,442	1,570
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	364	370	446	531	553
Cases Disposed	514	530	251	249	362
Caseload Increase/Decrease	−150	−160	+195	+282	+191
Pending at Year End	678	394	589	826	1,017
WASHINGTON					
Total Cases Filed	555	601	672	680	826
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	199	178	162	184	553
Cases Disposed	130	86	69	90	219
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+69	+92	+93	+94	+34
Pending at Year End	193	288	381	466	500
NEWPORT					
Total Cases Filed	561	509	607	613	635
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	159	134	162	178	135
Cases Disposed	114	67	61	87	107
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+45	+67	+101	+91	+28
Pending at Year End	219	224	292	374	402
STATEWIDE					
Total Cases Filed	7,732	7,867	8,404	8,863	10,121
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,918	2,738	2,653	2,770	2,673
Cases Disposed	2,411	2,348	2,395	2,449	2,444
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+507	+390	+258	+321	+229
Pending at Year End	6,312	6,511	6,717	6,866	6,985

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

MANNER OF DISPOSITION – TRIAL CALENDAR ONLY

Civil Actions	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Verdicts	80	66	76	98	68
Judicial Decisions	65	43	61	87	90
Total Trials	145	109	137	185	158
Dismissed/Settled/Other	1,508	1,371	1,877	1,928	1,598
Total Disposed	1,653	1,480	2,014	2,113	1,756
KENT					
Verdicts	31	18	16	5	24
Judicial Decisions	140	147	40	8	6
Total Trials	171	165	56	13	30
Dismissed/Settled/Other	343	365	195	236	332
Total Disposed	514	530	251	249	362
WASHINGTON					
Verdicts	7	1	0	2	8
Judicial Decisions	8	7	0	5	18
Total Trials	15	8	0	7	26
Dismissed/Settled/Other	115	82	69	83	193
Total Disposed	130	90	69	90	219
NEWPORT					
Verdicts	7	6	2	3	3
Judicial Decisions	11	13	11	2	2
Total Trials	18	19	13	5	5
Dismissed/Settled/Other	96	48	48	82	102
Total Disposed	114	67	61	87	107
STATEWIDE					
Verdicts	125	91	94	108	103
Judicial Decisions	224	210	112	102	116
Total Trials	349	301	206	210	219
Dismissed/Settled/Other	2,062	1,746	2,189	2,239	2,225
Total Disposed	2,411	2,047	2,395	2,449	2,444

JUVENILE CASEFLOW

Juvenile Filings	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Wayward/Delinquent	4,611	4,935	5,151	5,432	5,710
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	791	666	697	739	994
Termination of Parental Rights	262	217	204	205	193
Other	920	967	911	987	1,021
Total Filings	6,584	6,785	6,963	7,363	7,918
Total Dispositions	6,317	6,278	6,702	6,514	7,037
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+267	+507	+261	+849	+881
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR RESULTS					
Cases Added	3,377	3,393	3,447	3,589	4,131
Cases Disposed	3,352	3,336	3,425	3,541	4,158
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+25	+57	+22	+48	−27
Total Pending	415	472	494	542	515
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases Over 90 Days Old	32	75	58	70	119
Average Time to Disposition for Wayward/Delinquent Cases	73.9 days	73.7 days	77.8 days	74.1 days	83 days

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW

Divorce Petitions Filed	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Providence/Bristol	3,101	3,174	3,134	3,035	3,088
Kent	868	822	818	871	879
Newport	519	437	405	578	415
Washington	527	493	547	733	559
STATEWIDE TOTAL	5,015	4,926	4,904	5,217	4,941
CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR RESULTS					
Cases Added	842	985	970	955	1,003
Cases Disposed	740	939	908	1,102	1,013
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+102	+46	+62	−147	−10
Total Pending	582	628	690	543	533
Cases Pending Over 180 Days	204	173	196	157	120
Cases Pending Over 360 Days	31	20	35	26	9
Average Time to Disposition	225 days	215 days	236.1 days	235.4 days	196 days
ABUSE COMPLAINTS					
Cases Filed	1,487	1,985	2,310	2,655	3,098

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

MISDEMEANORS	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Cases Filed	32,436	33,339	34,908	39,671	43,181
Cases Disposed	30,721	30,235	31,756	34,918	41,292
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,715	+3,104	+3,152	+4,753	+1,889
Total Pending Cases	2,390	3,001	2,545	3,180	*
Cases Over 60 Days Old	635	647	472	428	*
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Pleas	17,311	17,205	16,957	18,470	*
Filed	3,874	3,774	4,932	5,218	*
Dismissed	7,263	7,129	8,036	8,866	*
Trials	577	547	477	542	*
Others	1,108	883	779	880	
Cases Transferred	588	697	575	942	*
TOTAL	30,721	30,235	31,756	34,918	*
Cases Appealed	291	278	410	225	*
FELONIES					
Charges Filed	8,332	8,233	10,071	10,422	10,181
Charges Disposed	8,005	6,559	6,692	10,326	*
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Charged	4,837	4,056	4,241	6,781	*
Not Charged/Dismissed	3,168	2,503	2,451	3,545	*
TOTAL	8,005	6,559	6,692	10,326	*

CIVIL CASEFLOW

REGULAR CIVIL					
Cases Filed	21,396	21,116	19,899	19,215	20,772
Cases Disposed	14,273	16,770	19,030	24,770	16,978
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	8,274	9,020	9,283	9,448	8,096
Settlements	3,513	3,803	4,723	5,856	4,680
Judgments	2,915	3,840	5,025	5,656	3,747
Transfers	21	107	99	211	455
Other			4,971	3,599	*
TOTAL	14,723	16,770	24,101	24,770	16,978
Appeals	395	303	321	266	256
SMALL CLAIMS					
Cases Filed	11,997	12,654	14,055	14,963	18,299
Cases Disposed	8,038	10,691	12,725	14,851	15,041
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	4,962	6,383	6,602	7,321	7,975
Settlements	1,544	1,998	2,974	3,527	5,016
Judgments	1,532	2,310	3,149	4,003	2,050
TOTAL	8,038	10,691	12,725	14,851	15,041
Appeals	97	131	192	131	138

** unavailable due to automated system changeover*